FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

Latin America

16 Jun 87 FBIS-LAT-87-115 i

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Bolivian Airspace Violation Caused by Peruvian Planes [Santiago] BB 1
More on Carvajal Remarks [Santiago] BB 1
Former Consul Says Merino Offended Bolivia [La Paz] BB 1
Presidential Summit To Be Held in Guatemala 10 Aug [DPA] BB 2

CARIBBEAN

CUBA

Government Maintains 'Total Control' in Panama A 1
Commentary Views Latin American Debt Problem A 1
Costa Rica's Iran-Contra Role Belies Neutrality A 2
'Salvadoran Youths' Discuss Radio Venceremos A 3
Persecution of Journalists in Region Noted A 4
Sugar Production Yields Reported, Plans Fulfilled A 5
Las Tunas Overfulfills Targets A 5
Cienfuegos Fulfills Plan A 6
Briefs: New FAR Newspaper; Jaruco Radio Club A 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Italian Paper Interviews Arias on Peace Plan [Rome AVANTI! 6 Jun] E 1
Wants Treaty Signed Soon E 2
President Arias Reports on Talks With Philip Habib E 3

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Discusses Ochoa Perez, Arias Peace Plan F 1

GUATEMALA

Government 'Surprised' Over Summit Cancellation G 1
Cerezo on Suspension G 2
Cerezo on U.S. Role [AFP] G 2

HONDURAS

Foreign Minister Discusses Contras, Summit H 1
Nicaragua, Guatemala Blamed for Talks' Halt [LA PRENSA 11 Jun] H 2
Christian Democratic Figure Opposes F-5 Purchase H 3

NICARAGUA

Ortega Replies to Salvadoran Summit Proposal I 1
Discusses Postponement I 2
CDN Delegation Proposes Arias Plan Reform I 3
Miskito Leader Says U.S. 'Not Reliable Ally' I 3
Military Chief Presents Seized Contra Document I 4
[BARRICADA 10 Jun]

PANAMA

J 1
Arias Calderon Says Noriega Ouster Necessary J 16
FDP 'Sources' Implicate Diaz Herrera in Plot J 17
Diaz Herrera Turns Down Asylum in Spain J 18
Assembly To Charge Barletta, Others of Treason [AFP] J 18
Assembly President Sees No U.S. 'Conspiracy' J 18
[STAR AND HERALD 15 Jun]
Spadafora Family Members Take Asylum in Church J 19
Correa Reportedly Seeks Asylum J 20
Former FDP Chief Dario Paredes on Situation J 21
[CRITICA 12 Jun]
Terms Elections 'Fraud' J 24
Calls for Early Elections J 29
Defense Forces Captain in 'Stable' Condition J 35
Radio Station Reports 'Normal' Day in Panama City J 35
Denies Rumors of Curfew J 35

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Defense Secretary Resigns, Replacement Named K 1
Further Reportage on Falkland Islands Debate K 1
Official Views Issue [EFE] K 1
Governments Discuss 'Impasse' K 2

BOLIVIAN AIRSPACE VIOLATION CAUSED BY PERUVIAN PLANES

PA151940 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Chilean Defense Minister Rear Admiral Patricio Carvajal has asserted that the alleged violation of Bolivian airspace by Chilean planes has been completely clarified.

[Begin recording] [Carvajal] I think the situation has been completely clarified. At first there was of course great concern, but it has been clarified that those planes that overflew that territory were not Chilean planes. We have the register numbers, type of planes, everything. We even heard the communications between the planes.

We have important witnesses such as the Visviri Carabineros. They gave us information regarding the planes' register numbers, types, etc. They are not...

[Unidentified reporters interrupt, speaking simultaneously] Where did those planes come from then?

[Carvajal] They are Peruvian planes. [end recording]

Regarding a papal mediation in the problem with Bolivia proposed by the Sucre bishop, Minister Carvajal said it would not be appropriate in this case. It is different from the mediation with Argentina because Chile has very well-defined borders with Bolivia.

More on Carvajal Remarks

PY152016 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal today denied that Chilean airplanes flew over Bolivian territory. He said they were Peruvian planes, because Chilean Carabineros in Visviri saw them and wrote down their numbers and model. He said this proves they were not Chilean planes.

He said the Visviri zone is common to Chile, Bolivia, and Peru, therefore, a small, unnoticeable flight of no importance could occur. Carvajal made these comments after attending a ceremony during which PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xuequian laid a wreath at the national monument.

Asked about the situation between Chile and Bolivia, Carvajal said with a doubt there will be uncomfortable moments because Bolivia will compalin to the OAS. Carvajal said he nonetheless hopes things will gradually normalize.

FORMER CONSUL SAYS MERINO OFFENDED BOLIVIA

PY121352 La Paz La Red Panamerica in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Former Bolivian Consul to Chile Jorge Siles Salinas holds Chilean Admiral Jose Toribio Merino responsible for the failure of the Bolivian-Chilean talks. He also accused Merino of offending Bolivia.

Siles Salinas arrived in La Paz yesterday at 1745 on Flight 908 of Lloyd Aereo Boliviano. He immediately expressed satisfaction to once again be in Bolivia.

In the VIP room of El Alto International Airport, the Former Bolivian consul to Santiago addressed the media briefly. He said he would grant a press conference after he talks to the president of the Republic.

From the moment I assumed my post as consul in Santiago, he said, my main objective was to help start negotiations to solve our maritime problem. However, he said the attitude of Adm Merino had hindered the negotiations and therefore, Siles Salinas requested an audience with Merino. Merino never granted the audience, however.

Asked if ultraconservative sectors had exerted pressure, Siles Salinas admitted this was a possibility. However, he said, he could not base his comments on hypothesis or conjecture.

Regarding the possibility of imposing a trade restriction on Chile, Siles Salinas said such decisions depend on the government, and he could not give an opinion in his capacity as former consul.

Siles Salinas was also asked about the possibility of restrictions on travel from Chile to Bolivia. He answered that he knew nothing of this subject.

In conclusion, Siles Salinas said that, in the name of justice, Chile must improve its conduct regarding the maritime problem because it is a legitimate Bolivian right and because the international community has expressed its solidarity on the subject.

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN GUATEMALA 10 AUG

PA152204 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] San Jose, 15 Jun (DPA) -- Official sources have told DPA the summit meeting of the five Central American Presidents will be held in Guatemala City on 10 August.

It was reported that three meetings of Central American foreign ministers will be held beforehand: On 26 June in San Salvador, 20 July in San Jose, and 30 July in Tegucigalpa.

According to the source, the date was agreed upon after consultations regarding the engagements of the presidents and foreign ministers during the next two months.

The summit was to be held on 25-26 June in Guatemala City but Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Durate asked for a postponement because "there is not a careful study of President Arias' peace proposal." In addition, Duarte will make a 2-week trip to Europe in July.

GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS 'TOTAL CONTROL' IN PANAMA

PA141946 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Report by Zaida Gutierrez]

[Text] Following violent disturbances in Panama City and Colon, the government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle maintains total control of the political crisis created by opposition individuals anxious to replace the current democratic government of that isthmian nation.

The Panamanian Government decreed a temporary state of emergency and suspended constitutional guarantees to curb new outbreaks of violence and subversion. Regarding this, the Panamanian authorities ordered the arrest of several opposition leaders, including Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who headed the Civilianization Crusade and issued the call for a strike.

The incidents in Panama began after business and political opposition groups took advantage of remarks made by retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, former chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces' [FDP] General Staff, who said the current government committed a fraud in the May 1984 elections. Diaz Herrera also made serious accusations against his comrades in arms. Regarding this, relatives of the late General Omar Torrijos denied that FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega and other officers were involved in Torrijos' death.

The People's Party [PDP] stated there can be no effective solution to the country's crisis if it is not based on a political commitment toward the country's socioeconomic problems and a progressive democratization.

The leftist PDP reported the flagrant and bold intervention of the U.S. Embassy in Panama City, which gave precise instructions to rightist opposition groups on ousting the government.

COMMENTARY VIEWS LATIN AMERICAN DEBT PROBLEM

PA151738 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez]

[Text] Economic problems, which are at the root of social destabilization in Third World nations, continue to be the focus of debate in Latin America as one of the region's most pressing problems. Virtually no republic in the area is excluded from the list of Latin American countries (?burdened) by the foreign debt, while leaders of the continent's fledgling democracies believe the processes that followed military dictatorships in several of our countries will be seriously threatened unless the problem is adequately resolved.

Raul Alfonsin said several hours ago in Geneva our peoples' debt has been mostly paid off, and urged creditors to be totally flexible in dealing with a matter that is all-encompassing for Third World nations.

Various governments, including those of Peru and Brazil, have adopted concrete actions against the implications of a regional debt in excess of $400 billion, while apparently stable countries, including Costa Rica, have been forced to request extensions on the payment of their foreign debts because they are currently insolvent.

More alarming amid this chaos is the arrogance and intransigence of creditors, who seem unaware of the dangers the explosive situation taking shape in the underdeveloped nations pose to their own stability. For example, while the recently concluded Venice summit recommended various modifications to the demands on collecting the foreign debt, it insisted debtors accept the severely restrictive measures imposed by capitalist credit organizations before they are given any benefit. In this way, troubles accumulate in the same way wood is added to a fire that can end up burning this little house, our planet.

COSTA RICA'S IRAN-CONTRA ROLE BELIES NEUTRALITY

PA151637 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jun 87

["Our America" commentary read by Mario Montes]

[Text] The so-called Irangate or Iran-contra scandal has deeply shaken the United States. The secret sale of arms to Iran and the illegal diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have led to extensive investigations in that country. Amid these investigations, the reference by various officials to Costa Rica's involvement in the network to supply the Somozist mercenaries has seriously jeopardized that country's claim to neutrality.

Lewis Tambs, former U.S. ambassador in San Jose, and Elliott Abrams, U.S. under secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said in Washington that during the administration of Luis Alberto Monge, whose term ended in 1986, [words indistinct]. This last factor raises doubts about the position of current Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who assumed office on 8 May 1986 and officially banned use of that installation only 4 months later.

Although the statements to the U.S. Senate committee investigating the Irangate scandal most seriously affect former President Luis Alberto Monge, they also place Oscar Arias in a bind because he has defended tooth and nail his predecessor's so-called neutrality and has shown himself indifferent to reports that sectors openly opposed to the Sandinist government continue to operate with excessive freedom in Costa Rica.

Arias, who recently returned from a tour through West Europe, is attempting to find supporters for his so-called Central American Peace Plan, a variant on the Contadora Group's proposal.

The confirmation in Washington of an open secret -- the free movement of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in Costa Rica -- casts a shadow over Arias' feverish efforts as an arbiter attempting to lead the region toward an end of hostilities according to his very personal view of reality.

The investigative sessions by the Irangate committee have dealt such a sharp blow to the San Jose government that Arias requested an explanation from the United States concerning the scope of the remarks made by Abrams and Tambs. However, that decision seems to stem more from a desire to improve Costa Rica's image abroad than from an interest in delving into the murky waters of the case.

Meanwhile, the confirmation that Costa Rica helps the Nicaraguan mercenaries in one way or another works against Arias' efforts to win the case at the international court at The Hague, where Managua authorities filed suit over this very matter.

The Costa Rican Government [words indistinct] current occupants of the White House has been dealt a sharp blow. It is therefore no surprise that astonishment and chaos are finding ground amid the ranks of the ruling National Liberation Party and the members of President Oscar Arias' cabinet.

'SALVADORAN YOUTHS' DISCUSS RADIO VENCEREMOS

PA151637 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Interview with Salvadorans Ramiro Mendoza and Antonio Gutierrez by Ramon Chong at the Jose Marti International Journalism Institute in Havana; date not given; individual interviewees not identified -- recorded]

[Text] [Chong] This is your reporter and friend, Ramon Chong, speaking from the Jose Marti International Journalism Institute in Havana with two Salvadoran youths, Ramiro Mendoza and Antonio Gutierrez. They have just finished the eighth course given by this International Journalism Institute. Taking advantage of their presence here, we will discuss some aspects that show the progress of guerrilla radio broadcasting in El Salvador. Therefore, we will talk about Radio Venceremos, which was born with the war and which has grown with the war imposed by the U.S. Government on the Salvadoran people.

[Salvadoran] We can say that Radio Venceremos was established as the FMLN's official voice. It is one of the first expressions of people's power in El Salvador. Its constant transmissions (?report) to the people and give them specific guidelines from the FMLN General Command. Radio Venceremos has always accompanied the people at each juncture of the revolutionary process of El Salvador.

[Chong] That is right. Radio Venceremos is the station that participates in the general offensive to report the victorious actions carried out, to guide the masses, and also to counteract the regime's propaganda maneuvers.

[Salvadoran] One of the main aspects of the U.S. strategy in El Salvador is the psychological warfare through which it seeks to distort our struggle, to disinform, and to make erroneous analyses of the war to [words indistinct] from the masses. Radio Venceremos has the essential task of providing truthful reports about the course of the war, increasing the morale of the masses, and winning them over to the revolutionary cause.

[Chong] Ramiro, how far can the Radio Venceremos transmissions be heard?

[Mendoza] At the shortwave level, we have received reception reports from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and even from the U.S. South, where Radio Venceremos can be heard (?without special) equipment.

[Chong] Antonio, what about the audience of Radio Venceremos?

[Gutierrez] Throughout the past 6 years, Radio Venceremos has been gaining ground in the national territory. It is not heard just by the revolutionary forces or the democratic forces committed to the revolutionary and liberation cause. It is heard by large sectors of Salvadoran society, even by enemy sectors, by Army and government sectors that listen to it to receive a truthful version of the war because the regime's lies are not believed even by them.

[Chong] Who are the listeners outside El Salvador?

[Salvadoran] One of the most important sectors it covers is the refugees. The war [words indistinct] has forced hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans, practically a 10th of the population, to leave the country. There are approximately 400,000 Salvadorans in the United States, more than 100,000 in Mexico, 40,000 in Nicaragua, (?15,000) in Honduras, and about 20,000 in Costa Rica.

[Chong] We must stress that Radio Venceremos wages the ideological struggle by using the essential weapon of raising the people's awareness. Fifty medium-wave stations, seven FM stations, five television channels, and other press media try to silence the voice of the guerrilla radio. Have they been able to weaken the mission of Radio Venceremos?

[Salvadoran] No, not all. It must be pointed out that even the U.S. and European news agencies constantly use Radio Venceremos' reports because they know it is reporting the truth. It is important that we point out [words indistinct] because the essential problem is that by waging a war in which the interests of class prevail, the masses do not identify with [words indistinct]

PERSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS IN REGION NOTED

PA111659 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jun 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A few days ago in Mexico City, the Federation of Latin American Journalists, FELAP, disclosed figures indicating 212 journalists were assissinated in the region between 1970 and 1986. Also, 145 others disappeared with no clues as to their whereabouts; this is enough reason to assume they were also killed.

The regional organization maintained the various governments currently existing in the area are totally responsible for the practice of various methods of repression against freedom of the press, such as arrests, exiles, and executions, among others. Significantly, the FELAP statistics showed the number of assassinated journalists is larger in countries with military regimes.

It is not a coincidence that, on the same date these figures were revealed, it was reported that Felipe Pozos and Gilberto Palacios, editor and reporter of the opposition newspaper, FORTIN MAPOCHO, were arrested in Chile, a country with a fascist military regime for almost 13 years. And what was the motive for the arrest? Simply that the Pinochet authorities recalled that over a year ago the newspaper had published a report which, according to the regime, was offensive to the Armed Forces and violated the military justice code. This is a significant example of how Chilean authorities, when they want to silence criticism of the government, either fabricate the evidence or dig it up from old files.

Another event showing the repression imposed on journalists in Chile is the Chilean Supreme Court's decision to sentence journalist Juan Pablo Cardenas, editor of the opposition magazine ANALYSIS, to 541 days in prison. He was charged with slander against Gen Augusto Pinochet. This blatantly contradicts the fact that, a few days before his jail sentence, Juan Pablo Cardenas had been presented the annual award given by the Swedish Journalists Association of the city of Orebro to that foreign journalist who distinguishes himself the most in the defense of human rights. In addition, he was awarded Liberty's Golden Pen, given by the International Federation of Newspaper Editors in Finland.

A list of journalists who have been murdered, arrested, or threatened with death over the last 13 years in Chile would be endless. Let us recall how Jose Carrasco Tapia international editor of ANALYSIS magazine, was killed by thugs paid by the Pinochet regime and how his murder shook Chilean and international public opinion and caused the harshest condemnation of the country's military authorities. Shortly after his death, several of Carrasco Tapia's fellow workers were also threatened, and the regime closed four publications that were starting to appear as a result of the lifting of the state of siege.

The Chilean rulers, in an attempt to keep Chile's real situation hidden, resort not only to the criminal and intimidating actions already explained, but also maintain an ironclad press censorship very similar to that maintained by the South African racist authorities.

Foreign correspondents are also forbidden from revealing Chile's political and social reality. To mention a case in point, we can recount the aggression and arrest of three Argentine newsmen who went to Chile to report on protests held last September in several Chilean cities. As we can see, that which to any honest, professional journalist constitutes his most sacred duties -- defending people's rights denouncing injustice, and telling the truth -- to the Chilean military regime are crimes punishable by prison or death.

SUGAR PRODUCTION YIELDS REPORTED, PLANS FULFILLED

Las Tunas Overfulfills Targets

FL051631 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Jun 87

[Text] The workers of the Antonio Guiteras agroindustrial complex in Las Tunas have fulfilled the commitment they made with Fidel of surpassing their sugar production program during this harvest. They produced 200,000 tons of sugar, which is 1,342 tons over the amount planned.

In a letter they sent to Fidel, the workers also indicated they fulfilled the provincial plan for the 5th consecutive year and hold the distinction of being the largest sugar producers in the country. They underscored their wish to immediately begin planting, weeding, and fertilizing and later repairing the plant and equipment so it is ready for the next harvest. Finally, the Antonio Guiteras workers wrote to Fidel: By fulfilling the commitment we had with you once more we reiterate, commander in chief, give us your orders!

Cienfuegos Fulfills Plan

FL061513 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1204 GMT 6 Jun 87

[Text] Cenfuegos Province has fulfilled its sugar production plan. This is the sixth and last province to complete it during this harvest following Granma, Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Sancti Spiritus, and Las Tunas. This time, Cienfuegos sugar industry workers produced more sugar than last harvest but had difficulties with every loss index, an almost generalized characteristic in the 1986-87 harvest. They stood our for the purity of final molasses with a yield of less than 40 percent. This fact must be taken into account since it was not achieved by all territories during this harvest. Now sugar industry workers will begin planting and cleaning cane. These tasks were behind schedule because the harvesting period was extended.

BRIEFS

NEW FAR NEWSPAPER -- An advanced edition of the newspaper BASTION, official organ of the FAR, has dedicated its frontpage to the recently concluded maneuvers, "30th Anniversary of the 5 September Uprising." The new daily is fundamentally geared to the military and to people associated with the country's defense system. It will begin circulation in July. [Text] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jun 87 FL]

JARUCO RADIO CLUB -- The Jaruco Radio Club is the 32d installation of that type in the country. Havana Province is expected to become a vanguard in this task. There are 10 collectives of this kind in Havana that allow the Communist Party of Cuba and the government to use equipment that receives and transmits shortwave signals in case of natural disasters or armed aggression. [Text] [Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2049 GMT 15 Jun 87 FL]

ITALIAN PAPER INTERVIEWS ARIAS ON PEACE PLAN

PM091156 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 6 Jun 87 p 20

[Interview with Costa Rican President Oscar Sanchez Arias by Paola Cacianti in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Cacianti] Mr President, what is the nature of your peace plan for Central America?

[Arias] The peace plan I have presented largely reproduces the point I presented to the Contadora Group but also embodies some more precise proposals. We are calling, first and foremost, for a dialogue between governments and internal political opposition forces in each country. That is, we are not recommending a dialogue either with the contras in Nicaragua or with the guerrillas in El Salvador. At the same time we are calling for a cease-fire, an amnesty for the rebels in both countries, and the suspension of economic aid both to the Salvadoran guerrillas and to the Nicaraguan contras.

We are calling for free elections to choose deputies to the Central American parliament and recommending these elections be held in the first half of 1988. This does not mean that we question the legitimacy of the existing governments or that we are calling for elections to be brought forward: Each government must reach the normal conclusion of constitutional term. But -- and this is the novelty -- we are asking each country to make a particular effort to advance toward real democracy, real pluralism.

To this end the Arias plan envisages a timetable so the agreed measures will be adopted within a well-defined period. There is also the crucial point that for a period of 60 days from the signing of the accord the mass media -- radio, television, and press -- must make themselves available to all political parties.

[Cacianti] Who would act as guarantor for this accord?

[Arias] A commission formed by the Contadora Group, the support group, and the UN and OAS secretaries general -- a dozen people in all -- but I could even agree to an enlargement of this commission if, for instance, certain European countries wanted to stand as guarantors of the support that I hope will be forthcoming from the entire EC.

[Cacianti] This is why you have come to Europe -- to discuss your plan and to seek support. How were you received in the European Parliament and the various EC countries?

[Arias] Following my visit to Europe the European Parliament will discuss the Costa Rican peace initiative and has promised support and backing.

[Cacianti] Are these merely generic promises?

[Arias] On the contrary. I was given assurances that at the first meeting of the commission -- the foreign ministers' meeting -- the decision will be adopted to support our peace proposal.

[Cacianti] Did you suggest to Chancellor Kohl that he broach the subject of your plan at the Venice summit?

[Arias] Both Helmut Kohl and Belgian Prime Minister Martens offered to raise the issue at the Venice meeting.

[Cacianti] What is the U.S. stance? Have you discussed your plan with Reagan, too, or only with the European countries?

[Arias] The American Congress is in favor of my plan and I believe the U.S. President will have to present the countries represented in Venice with a clear stance on the issue of aid to the contras.

[Cacianti] What role could the church play in this peace plan?

[Arias] The plan envisages a committee to regulate all the points of the cease-fire proposal. A number of domestic problems -- practical as well as political -- will have to be tackled. For this purpose a so-called "national reconciliation" committee will be formed, representing not only the political forces but also the inter-American human rights commission and the church.

[Cacianti] What about the Socialist International?

[Arias] At its latest meeting, right here in Rome, it granted us substantial backing by adopting a document in support of the democratization of Central America. I am sure the Socialist International leaders would be closely heeded by the Central American presidents.

[Cacianti] There is not only the Socialist International but also the Christian Democratic International.

[Arias] Helmut Kohl's voice could have a great deal of influence on Guatemala's President Vinicio Cerezo or El Salvador's President Napoleon Duarte. Similarly Felipe Gonzalez, Bettino Craxi, Mario Soares, and Francois Mitterrand are all members of the Socialist International and much heeded in Managua.

Obviously the objective I have set myself is not easy to achieve. The Contadora Group has been working on a similar project for 4 years without achieving any appreciable result, and it is utopian to believe it will be possible, in Antigua, to surmount within a matter of hours obstacles which have remained insurmountable for so many years. This is why I have called for broader and more general solidarity, so as to restore the problem to its real dimensions, which are not those of a purely Central American problem but which concern East-West balances as a whole.

Wants Treaty Signed Soon

PA120634 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] President Oscar Arias Sanchez has stated that he cannot wait to see the peace plan signed. He cautioned that he is not prepared to let the peace matter drag on, because peace benefits everybody and we cannot postpone it indefinitely.

The chief of state referred to the need for approving the peace plan at the Guatemala summit on 25 and 26 June. He said if we have to meet again it would be very soon. He said he does not have the patience of the Contadora countries to meet for 4 years in the beach resorts of Latin American waiting for the signing of a new document that would register an agreement among the Central Americans.

President Arias was asked if he would accept a meeting following the Esquipulas summit. He said emphatically that such a meeting could take place to finish up some difficult points and would have to take place very soon. If, after such a long time, we are still unable to reach agreement on the peace that Central America needs to improve the standard of living of our people, time will be against us, not in favor, he cautioned.

I have eight points to take care of [ocho peldanos que cumplir] and regardless of how important peace is, I cannot spend my 4 years looking for it. The other seven points take much of my time, he added.

The president said that even if the peace plan is not signed, Costa Rica is a winner. He said the whole world is in favor of our effort for peace, and if peace is not achieved, whoever is responsible for that failure will have to assume the consequences.

Regarding the support of the seven most industrialized countries meeting in Venice, he said that support is the fruit of his trip to Europe. However, he noted, it is very difficult to know how sincere that support is. He recalled that Contadora has also shown support and that on 25 June, in Guatemala, he will see how effective solidarity is.

PRESIDENT ARIAS REPORTS ON TALKS WITH PHILIP HABIB

PA102029 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jun 87

[Text] President Oscar Arias and Philip Habib, U.S. special envoy for Central America, met yesterday for 2 hours and 30 minutes at the Presidential House. The president reported that they discussed Central America, results of Arias' recent trip to Europe, EEC support, and the need for a peace agreement to be reached at the forthcoming meeting in Guatemala. They also discussed the possibilities of reaching such an agreement at that meeting. Habib promised to return on Thursday, 11 June, to brief Arias on his conversations on the subject with the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

President Arias told Habib the Costa Rican Government is interested in overcoming any obstacle to its peace plan.

Philip Habib stated that it is obvious he is visiting Costa Rica before going on to the neighboring democracies to discuss the Central American situation and the peace process now centered on the Costa Rican proposal. He added that the United States is also interested in a peaceful solution for the area but that this problem is now in the hands of Central America. He reaffirmed that the United States supports the search for solutions to Central American problems and has accepted President Arias' peace proposal.

DUARTE DISCUSSES OCHOA PEREZ, ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA160233 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Report by Javier Najarro]

[Text] [Najarro] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte said today that as chief of the Armed Forces and president of the country, he ordered the Army General Staff to discharge Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez as of today. Ochoa requested his discharge yesterday to join the country's political life. Following are the statements made by President Duarte regarding Ochoa's remarks. Duarte points out that if Ochoa gave any political opinions before being discharged from the army, that could be called high treason.

[Begin recording] [Duarte, in progress] ...yesterday Col Ochoa presented a request for his discharge, and this morning I ordered his discharge.

[Unidentified reporter] Yesterday, Col Ochoa criticized the government and the Armed Forces, stating the country's current sociopolitical situation has been caused by the government's actions. What do you think of this?

[Duarte] This means he is already acting as a politician before having being discharged. If he made those statements yesterday while still in the Armed Forces, he committed high treason. An officer who is still in the Armed Forces cannot, should not, give opinions about things that are not in his line. He is discharged now so he can now make the statements he pleases, because he is a regular citizen without the privileges he had in the military. From this point on, from the moment the document is signed -- I ordered Ochoa's discharge this morning -- from that point on, he will be a regular citizen with all the rights and duties of all citizens. Thus, if he makes a mistake, if he says things he should not say, he will not have any kind of protection. He will have to abide by the law. He has all the right in the world to give his opinion about all things the law allows. That is a democratic system.

[Reporter] Ochoa said he wanted to return to the 4th Infantry Brigade, but as long as the Christian Democracy is in power, the government would not let him join that military unit. What can you say about that?

[Duarte] I think Ochoa's separation from the 4th Infantry Brigade was a result of exclusively military causes I cannot mention here because I am commander in chief of the Armed Forces. He knows very well as long as he is a member of the Armed Forces, he cannot make any comments on military matters.

[Reporter] Mr President, regarding the presidential summit in Guatemala, apparently the Nicaraguan Government does not approve President Arias' project and apparently it will again support the Contradora Group document. How is the situation; how does the Salvadoran Government view the situation?

[Duarte] I do not think Nicaragua has made any definite statement. I think Nicaragua has made five different statements in this regard. All of them are contradictory statements, including the ones made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Interior Minister Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramiez, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Commander Bayardo Arce. No one can issue any conclusions on Nicaragua's position regarding the Arias plan.

I can tell you one thing, I do not think you have any doubts regarding El Salvador's position regarding democracy. I am a loyal defender of democratic principles here and anywhere in the world. If I am making efforts to lead the country toward democracy by allowing all sectors, including the opposition, to freely express their opinions and giving them space to act freely in the political field, without any kind of repressions... [changes thought] You are in fact witnessing that situation now there is a military man making political statements here, while in any other part of the world he would have already been arrested; but not here. Why? Because we grant political opportunities to all sectors. When demonstrators go out on the streets with sticks to break windows, burn buses, break shop windows, and create confusion throughout the city, people wonder: Is this or is this not democracy?

The democratic process follows its course and because the country is making a great democratic effort, we also back and support all efforts to lead Central America toward democracy. [end recording]

[Najarro] President Duarte also said his government has certain fears regarding the Arias plan because of the time schedule it establishes.

Regarding the Arias plan for Central America, President Duarte said the following:

[Begin recording] [Duarte, in progress]...a wrong move and continue with totalitarian systems. We do not agree with that and we are going to struggle against it. Therefore, Nicaragua's position in this regard is vital. If Nicaragua is sincere, if it truly wants peace, and accepts the characteristics and conditions of the democratic process, we will be willing to support that effort, but if any of the countries wants to impose itself or its formulas against basic democratic principles, I am going to be the first one to say no. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] If the Central American governments approve the Arias plan, if they agree with it and if within 60 days after signing the plan, the Central American governments commit themselves to meet with the rebel groups, what would be the situation in our country?

[Duarte] I did not understand. What did you say about the United States?

[Reporter] No, no. If all the Central American governments agree with the Arias plan, if after signing the Arias plan the various governments commit themselves to talk with the rebel groups, what would be the situation in our country?

[Duarte] I do not have any problems in this respect. If all Central American countries jointly commit ourselves to seek a dialogue with the rebel groups in all nations and seek a formula for peace in Central America -- this is valid for Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, it is valid for all countries -- then we will fulfill our commitment. The important subject is the danger entailed in the 60-day period. It gives the impressions of being a period during which...[changes thought] if within that period we carry out any kind of dialogue...[changes thought] tomorrow I can sit and talk with the rebels or I can say I want to talk with the rebels and if they come to talk, that is fine and if they do not, that is fine also, but I would have fulfilled my duty. Now, would this be a way to really seek peace? If I impose conditions on them, for example, if I tell the rebels: Look, the dialogue will take place inside the San Carlos Quarter, and if the rebels say: No, we are not going there -- then if this type of trick exists and is used to simply not fulfill the commitment, the 60 days will be over and everybody will sort of half fulfill the commitment and peace will not be achieved. Therefore, the danger lies in the fact that those periods that do not indicate any methodology can endanger peace programs further.

That is why time periods should also include priorities, methodology, and systems to guarantee the feasibility of the goals. This kind of time period should also be used in negotiations for dialogue, amnesty, cease-fire, etc, and for all topics involved in the peace program and the democratic program. How are we going to prove there will be freedom of the press in El Salvador? There must be a method for them [not further identified] to tell if we have freedom of the press or not.

There must be a way of establishing whether freedom of the press exists in Nicaragua or not, because all I would have to do is to establish censorship for freedom of the press to cease. A paper shortage or a cut-off of electricity to the radio stations would be enough to make freedom of the press cease to exist. I could play around at allowing and withdrawing freedom of the press over a period of 60 days, making it appear as if it exists when it does not, and herein lies the danger of an approval of principles and not mechanisms. I am concerned about this because if we honestly and sincerely desire peace, there must not only be a series of concepts but also methods and measures to guarantee that freedom of the press will really exist. I could allow Msgr Obando [Miguel] to give a speech on a Sunday, and I could allow the radio stations to broadcast this speech, but I could also use a device to prevent anyone from hearing the stations, thus precluding the fulfillment of the objective. I believe this is what matters the most and it will be my contribution to the discussion. I agree with the Arias plan's democratic concepts. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT 'SURPRISED' OVER SUMMIT CANCELLATION

PA130231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0001 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government this afternoon appeared "surprised" about the fact that the "Esquipulas II" presidential summit meeting has reportedly been suspended at the request of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Acting Foreign Minister Julio Armando Martini told ACAN-EFE that the Guatemalan Government "has received no Salvadoran request to postpone the presidential summit meeting scheduled for 25 and 26 June." The deputy foreign minister said: "We are still determined to hold the foreign ministers' meeting if the rest of the countries in the region agree." The diplomat also said Guatemala will attend any Central American foreign ministers' meeting. He said the announcement of the Honduran and Costa Rican foreign ministers, Carlos Lopez Contreras and Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, respectively, "surprised us because it would have been natural for El Salvador to request the postponement from the Guatemalan Government, as it is hosting the summit meeting."

Previously, Guatemalan presidential spokesman Julio Santos said El Salvador's nonattendance at the presidential "summit," or a request to postpone it, "would be tantamount to failing to responsibly face the situation in Central America and efforts to achieve peace." Santos added: "It is not possible to anticipate the failure of something still in preparation." He refuted statements by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, who believes the cause of this would be the Central American countries' "climate of mistrust and alienation." President Vinicio Cerezo's spokesman pointed out: "Guatemala and the rest of the nations of the region cannot back away from the historical challenge the Central American conflict poses at present." He also said "there can be no failure." He recalled that the international community expectantly awaits "positive results" from the presidential summit meeting because the area is beng closely observed by the democratic nations.

Santos recalled that even the seven most highly industrialized countries in the world, which concluded their economic meeting in Venice on Wednesday, voiced hopes that the next Central American presidential summit meeting can play a positive role in achieving peace. The leaders of Italy, the United States, the FRG, France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Japan said the dialogue among Central American presidents "would pave the way for peace and stability."

Santos said: "Of course, if El Salvador thinks the proper conditions for the presidential summit meeting do not exist, it can propose a postponement during the preliminary foreign ministers' meeting to be held on 23 and 24 June in this capital." He pointed out: "But it would be a historical irresponsibility to shun dialogue and negotiations at this time when even the United States has shown interest in a diplomatic solution to the armed conflict." Santos said that President Cerezo has received confirmation of the attendance of the five area presidents. Cerezo will go to Honduras on Tuesday to meet with President Azcona, and learn about Honduras' position.

According to Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta, grounds for requesting the postponement of the "summit" would be the lack of preliminary work, a lack of discussions by the foreign ministers, the absence of a minimum consensus, and the amendment of the original peace plan," [quotation marks, sentence as received] He also argued: "This would bring about a 'confrontational meeting' between the five Central American presidents." "Guatemala, which upholds a policy of active neutrality in regard to the regional conflict, wants to set forth its pacifist position by promoting dialogue and negotiations to do away with the fruitless armed confrontation," Santos said.

Cerezo on Suspension

PA131414 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1253 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said last night in Coban, Alta Verapaz, that the postponement of the presidential summit that was going to take place in Guatemala on 25-26 June is inadvisable. According to information received yesterday afternoon from Central America, the meeting has actually been suspended.

The proposal to postpone the meeting was made by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who proposed it to the rest of the Central American countries. For example, yesterday afternoon, Costa Rica officially announced that the presidential summit was suspended, and this position was confirmed by Honduras. [passage omitted]

According to the special statements made by President Cerezo last night in Coban, Alta Verapaz, the postponement of the meeting would not be advisable because it would be like throwing the world's hope overboard now that we could initiate discussions on the search for peace in Central America.

Responding to a specific question last night in Coban regarding the postponement of the meeting, President Cerezo said Philip Habib had not exerted pressure for the suspension of the presidential meeting. He said Habib made clear statements and expressed his concern about what could be said at the meeting, but that he was very respectful, Cerezo added. Cerezo said he does not see any reason why the United States would want to suspend or cause the suspension of the Central American presidential summit.

Cerezo on U.S. Role

PA140002 Paris AFP in Spanish 2248 GMT 13 Jun 87

[By Jose Elias Tarano]

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jun (AFP) -- Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today said the U.S. Government may have pressured for the suspension of a summit of Central American presidents scheduled for 25 and 26 June in the Guatemalan capital.

"The suspension of the summit -- where Costa Rican President Arias' peace plan will be discussed -- especially affects the U.S. image, because the whole world is going to think that they worked" to cancel it, Cerezo stated after returning from a tour of northern Guatemala. "Although I cannot affirm such an extreme is true, I believe the United States must work now for the meeting to be held, for the benefit of U.S. prestige and peace in Central America," the president said during an impromptu press conference.

"Philip Habib, special White House ambassador to Central America, who toured the region coinciding with the suspension of the summit this Friday, at no time pressured the Guatemalan Government to adopt any given position at the meeting," Cerezo added. "However," he added, "I do not know if he did pressure other Central American presidents." "I doubt any president of the region will accept pressures of that sort," he added, "but, nevertheless, we will have to see. I am certain that in our conversation this afternoon, Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte will tell me what the U.S. Government's position is."

Cerezo, according to offical sources today, will contact his Central American colleagues by telephone this afternoon to try and reschedule the presidential summit. Cerezo also confessed to being "the first one to be surprised" by th decision of the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica to approve the suspension of the summit, requested by the Salvadoran president yesterday, Friday. However, he declined to comment on a possible "reactivation" of the so-called "Tegucigalpa bloc," which in the past was made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, and whose position coincided with that of Washington. "I do not customarily make a prior judgment on the attitudes of other presidents," he said, adding, "when they advise me of the reason for their decision we will issue a communique setting forth the official position of the Guatemalan Government." "For the moment," he added, "we will insist on holding the meeting at the scheduled date or immediately after." "Guatemala defintely will do everything possible to have the meeting held, because it is vital for peace in the region," He stated.

Cerezo denied there has been any intention on the part of Guatemala and Nicaragua of "boycotting" the preliminary meeting of foreign ministers scheduled to be held in the Honduran city of Tela. "We were the ones most interested in holding the meeting," he explained. Today, in fact, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega appealed "to the wisdom and responsibility of the other presidents of Central America not to change the date of the summit." Ortega also noted the possibility of a boycott, stating that his government hoped the suspension of the summit "would not be the result of this week's tour of the region -- except for Nicaragua -- by U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib."

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said in Tegucigalpa last night that the meeting of presidents was postponed indefinitely at the request of Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte. Duarte said in San Salvador that it was "dangerous" to have a meeting of the five chiefs of state if the respective foreign ministers did not hold at least four meetings prior to the summit.

Habib also expressed his concern that the Guatemala meeting would ratify a document that did not consider the interests of U.S. security.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CONTRAS, SUMMIT

PA150159 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by Julio Armando Valdez; place, date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Valdez] President Azcona and Carlos Lopez Contreras met with U.S. roving Ambassador Philip Habib. To give more details, we asked the foreign minister what domestic and foreign political topics were discussed.

[Lopez] This is one of his normal visits prior to a summit meeting, connected with the political and security situation in Central America. They [not further identified] come and put across their points of veiws and their concerns regarding the different positions or stances taken by the varaious parties involved, and the outcome that may come about.

Obviously they have interests in Central America, and of course they come to reaffirm them and request that they be taken into account.

Honduras is a friend of the United States. Therefore, it listens and [words indistinct] taking them into consideration. Likewise, we make our own observations known to them so they take into account our political, economic, and security interests.

[Valdez] What were the U.S. points of view put forward by Philip Habib?

[Lopez] Look, I cannot be specific, as these were confidential talks between a U.S. Government representative -- of President Reagan -- with President Azcona. They are of course concerned an agreement might be arrived at without safeguarding their security interests.

[Valdez] President Azcona has said the contras should be in Nicaragua. However, contra leaders are in the northeastern part of the country.

[Lopez] That is a problem of a rather special nature. Nicaraguans from the eastern coast are a special ethnic group which has received much international concern, including concern that they may even become extinct. Many of them, 15,000 to 20,000, have taken refuge in Honduras. We have tried to repatriate them voluntarily -- both Salvadorans and Nicaraguans. There have been spontaneous repatriations. There have been some 3,000, more or less, during the last year. Programmed by the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], there have been some 900 during the last 3 months, with some 30[illegible] by air during the last month. I would like to say that Honduras has a position with respect to foreigners or refugees. It is very difficult to determine the gray line between refugee and insurgent. When you hear of a meeting of 1,500 like you read in the press, I do not believe they are leaders or armed commanders. I understand they are Nicaraguans from the eastern coast.

[Valdez] Will the Guatemala meeting be weakened by not having the foreign ministers meeting in Tela? There was a Foreign Ministry communique today about this.

[Lopez] Look; at the meeting we had in Guatemala City in May, we agreed on the possibility of a meeting in Tela of all five foreign ministers to study the proposals and to hear from the Costa Rican foreign minister, and thus be better informed for the Guatemalan presidential summit on 25 and 26 June. However, the meeting was scheduled, and there was overall acceptance, and the adjustments were made based on bilateral consultations with each of the governments, and all the foreign ministers had agreed to meet in Tela on 22 and 23 June. However, as you may have seen in today's papers, the Guatemalan Government has said there was to be a new foreign ministers meeting in Guatemala, following the presidential meeting. The Honduran Foreign Ministry is very much surprised at this announcement by the Guatemalan Government because they were to be attending as guests at Tela. It is very strange to call for a meeting when the previous one has not been canceled.

As far as I know at this moment, before we made the decision to cancel the Tela meeting -- this afternoon, a couple of hours ago -- all five had committed themselves to attend. However, at midday I learned that Foreign Ministers Quinones Amesquita and D'Escoto would meet in Guatemala on 23 and 24 June.

Therefore, I believe they are bilateral consultation meetings, because the Honduran Foreign Ministry has not been invited to Guatemala, nor would we think of attending; especially taking into account that the agreement to meet in Tela has not been complied with.

[Valdez] Will this bilateral meeting in Guatemala affect the objectives programmed in Tela?

[Lopez] I find it deplorable that being a host, he does not accept an invitation he had committed himself to attending. And of course this is not a good omen. However, we have no [words indistinct] in this regard, but we do take it into account and evaluate it. It has all been spoiled now for reasons [words indistinct]

[Valdez] Will this attitude taken lately by Guatemala and Nicaragua affect the presidential summit?

[Lopez] The presidential summit is firm as of this moment. [passage omitted]

NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA BLAMED FOR TALKS HALT

PA141533 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jun 87 p 2

[Press Communique No 50 issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat's Information and Press Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 10 June 1987]

[Text] The Foreign Secretariat's Information and Press Directorate announces to the people that although a meeting of Central American foreign ministers had been agreed upon for 22 and 23 June in Tela, the foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Guatemala have decided to hold bilateral consultations in Guatemala City on those 2 days, thus making the meeting of the five foreign ministers in Tela impossible.

In view of this, the Foreign Secretariat has informed the Costa Rican and Salvadoran foreign ministers today that the Tela meeting has been canceled.

Tegucigalpa, 10 June 1987

Foreign Secretariat's Information and Press Directorate

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FIGURE OPPOSES F-5 PURCHASE

PA100554 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 8 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The purchase of the supersonic F-5E airplanes must be the result of discussions by the popular organizations and the political parties. Also, it must be based on the country's interests. Here is a report by journalist Wilfredo Ramirez Vega:

[Begin recording] [Ignacio Cosorto, Honduran Christian Democratic Party political adviser] First of all, I want to state that it is hard to believe the airplanes are a gift from the United States. I believe U.S. interests in Honduras are so great that in exchange for the money it spends on those airplanes, the United States will obtain much greater dividends. The United States does not give money away just to give it away. It gives it in exchange for something. We believe this harms Honduran dignity. The official Christian Democratic Party position is that the Armed Forces must be professional and well-equipped. However, that professionalization and equipping are based on an overall Honduran strategy that must take into account the Central American crisis. This is so because at the Central American level negotiations are taking place for a future peace treaty. We believe it is contradictory that while there is talk of peace and peace agreements, and while the Honduran Government states it will participate in a peace meeting in Central America, planes are being purchased. This will cause an imbalance in Central America and the peace so desired by Central America will move further away. In our view, the purchase of those airplanes must be the result of a national consensus and a discussion among all the political parties, the popular organizations, and all government sectors. The government should submit this to a plebiscite, to a popular consultations on the basis of the nation's interests. That is our position. [passage omitted]

[Ramirez] Do you think the maintenance of those supersonic F-5 airplanes will mean huge expenses for Honduras?

[Cosorto] Definitely, because the maintenance of those airplanes is expensive. They are not low maintenance. Their maintenance is very expensive. This will mean an increase in the defense budget to the detriment of other sectors of the general budget that could be used to create jobs and open factories to benefit the Honduran people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

ORTEGA REPLIES TO SALVADORAN SUMMIT PROPOSAL

PA152144 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1940 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has asked his Salvadoran counterpart to reject foreign pressures and to act with responsibility to resolve the region's political crisis. The president said the U.S. Government, which is opposed to an understanding in Central America, is behind the Salvadoran Government's request for the postponement of the Guatemala summit meeting.

The Nicaraguan president announced that he received a proposal through the Salvadoran foreign minister to hold the presidential meeting on 10 and 11 August. However, he insisted that the logical and advisable thing would be to hold it on the scheduled days this month. The president made the statement during an impromptu news conference after the presentation of credentials by [names indistinct], the new Italian and Argentine ambassadors.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] The following letter has arrived. It states the following: On the instructions of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, I am honored to address Your Excellency.

This is a letter the Salvadoran foreign minister has sent to Foreign Minister D'Escoto on the instructions of President Duarte. It is the proposal [words indistinct] states the following:

For this reason, I believe it is of vital importance that the foreign ministers hold meetings on 26 June.

Therefore it is proposed in the letter that, instead of having the presidents meet, the foreign ministers meet on 26 June, that they later meet on 10 July, and that they meet again on 30 July. He states it would be wise to hold the presidential summit on 10 and 11 August. The Salvadoran Government is proposing that the meeting be postponed until August.

I feel this dialogue has brought much hope to Latin America, the United States, the EEC, and even to the group of seven who met in Venice. In other words we are facing a risky postponement of the dialogue. If there is something to be decided or agreed upon, the ones who can do it are the Central American presidents, not the Central American foreign ministers. I insist that the United States has a hand in this because that country is most interested in preventing the realization of the presidential summit on the established date.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I insist that the meeting be held on the established date, which would simply kill any possibilty of [words indistinct]. What does the foreign ministers' meeting mean? Why is President Duarte proposing a meeting of foreign ministers? Because the foreign ministers will meet, they will begin discussions, they will start a controversy. This will be followed by a sort of attrition and no agreement will be reached because they do not know how to arrive at agreements, and the important meeting will remain on hold. If the foreign ministers do not reach an agreement by August, a new date will have to be established, when it would be most logical for the presidents to meet first, then put the foreign ministers to work [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, do you believe Phillip Habib's visit to Central America has anything to do with the proposal?

[Ortega] Of course. It is clear Mr Habib has been exerting pressure because there are issues involved that are not favored by the U.S. Government, points that involve even President Arias' presence. [end recording]

Discusses Postponement

PA160305 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Interview with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega by Imevision Correspondent Epismenio Ibarra in Managua, Nicaragua; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ibarra] What is the significance of the suspension of the summit meeting for Latin America and Central America?

[Ortega] Great hopes have been placed on the Guatemala summit. There has been ample international support for this meeting and it truly would be a harsh blow to the Central American peoples' hopes and to the peace efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups, of the entire international community, if this meeting were to be canceled.

[Ibarra] What can Nicaragua do in this respect? Presidents Arias, Duarte, and Azcona have already spoken, what...

[Ortega interrupting] [Words indistinct] that the faith be kept, that we act with responsibility, that the meeting, therefore, be held just as it had been agreed upon.

[Ibarra] Are you going to communicate with the presidents?

[Ortega] We are approaching the Central American governments in various ways.

[Ibarra] How do you feel about President Duarte's opinion that it is dangerous for the five rulers to meet without the existence of a previous document?

[Ortega] We feel the most important item is the presidents' meeting. We already met in May of last year; we discussed things among us; we know one another perfectly; we know what the problems are. Therefore we feel the meetings beforehand would only wear out the peace effort and bring about fruitless discussions that would not strengthen the negotiating process.

[Ibarra] Do you feel there is a link between President Reagan's special envoy's visit, and the suspension of this meeting?

[Ortega] I would not like to think that President Duarte's position is a result of any pressure President Reagan's envoy exerted on the Central American governments. We hope President Duarte will think things over and will decide to go to Guatemala to the previously agreed upon meeting.

CDN DELEGATION PROPOSES ARIAS PLAN REFORMS

PA152253 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] A delegation of the rightist Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] Board coalition has traveled to Costa Rica to propose reforms to President Arias' peace plan.

The political mission, headed by Social Christian Erick Ramirez, today traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica, where they will try to meet with the Costa Rican president.

This opposition bloc is made up of three extraparliamentary parties -- the Social Christian Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Constitutionalist Liberal Party -- two minority union groups, and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP.

The proposed reforms to the Arias plan include a reconciliation dialogue that would include the revolutionary government, opposition parties, Catholic Church, and mercenary contras.

However, the Arias plan calls for a cease-fire, which would be followed by a domestic dialogue with the civil opposition, a general amnesty, and the suspension of foreign aid to irregular forces in the area. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government has recognized the Arias plan within the Contadora Group's negotiating process.

MISKITO LEADER SAYS U.S. 'NOT RELIABLE ALLY'

PA111624 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Jun 87

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- a spokesman for the rebel Indian group United Mosquitia said here today the United States is not a reliable ally, because it announces beforehand the type of weapons it gives to the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Resistance (RN).

Roger Hermann, executive director for political affairs of United Mosquitia, also known as KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous Peoples], told ACAN-EFE: "Our allies are not such great allies; they announce the kind of weapons they are going to give us as much as 6 months in advance, which allows the enemy, the Sandinists, to prepare their defense.

The KISAN spokesman said a meeting of approximately 1,000 Nicaraguan Miskitos is scheduled to be held tomorrow in the town of Rus Rus, in the eastern department of Gracias a Dios, on the Atlantic Coast, on the Nicaraguan border.

Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said on Monday that the Nicaraguan contra leadership will not hold any meetings in Honduras, although he admitted he knew of the Miskitos' meeting in Gracias a Dios, and said: "I think it will take place."

Hermann said that in the meeting scheduled to begin tomorrow, "Some 350 Miskitos will have the right to vote, while the rest will only be able to address the assembly. We want most of our fighters that have come from inside (Nicaragua) to participate."

The Miskito organization is ruled internally by a council of elders. During the meeting in Honduras, the group will form a board of directors and elect two or three candidates to the RN national assembly. The rebels have had difficulty in bringing most of their fighters to the meeting, Hermann said. He added that it is hoped all groups, including the Blacks and Sumus from Costa Rica, will be able to attend.

"We are seeking the unity of the Miskitos, Sumus, and Rames to continue our offensive," he added. The leader, who is in the post ad interim admitted there are problems with the supply of weapons, because "our allies give us military and humanitarian aid as they wish rather than as we need."

"Supply has not been good; coordination is needed. We have not received the surface-to-air missiles and our enemy is combatting us relentlessly," he said.

The Miskitos believe the U.S. system for providing them with "military and humanitarian" assistance should be "changed." The Indian rebels say they have some 1,390 fighters, most of them in Nicaragua, with a few small groups in Honduras. So far, "there have been eight killed, and we have obtained most of our weapons and ammunition in attacks on Sandinist military posts," Hermann said. He added that as a result of the announcement of the meeting in Rus Rus, the EPS has tripled its guards on the border, with no less than 8,000 soldiers and militiamen, and helicopters and speedboats to prevent the fighters from attending.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said in its Monday edition that the U.S. State Department is exerting pressure on the Miskitos regarding tomorrow's conference, because aid to the Indians "is vital" to U.S. plans.

Hermann said the Sandinist government does not represent the Nicaraguan people, "as they claimed when they came to power. That is not true, because one-third of our compatriots are in exile," he said.

"Peace will not be possible in Nicaragua as long as the Sandinist commanders are in power. Let them talk to the contras and they will see that the people reject them," he said.

The Indian leader said the Central American presidents meeting in Guatemala on 25 and 26 June should take into account the actions of the contras, and not just believe the Sandinists, "because there is a civil war under way in Nicaragua."

The presidents will discuss the peace plan proposed in February by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez to reach a political solution to the Central American conflict.

MILITARY CHIEF PRESENTS SEIZED CONTRA DOCUMENT

PA140022 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Jun 87 p 5

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Calderon, chief of the 5th Military Region, has said that this year the central CIA station in Central America has guaranteed supplies to the counterrevolutionary forces with a regularity of one or two monthly flights, using airplanes of all types from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica.

In a news conference with national and foreign journalists yesterday in Nueva Guinea, located more than 150 km from Juigalpa, the military chief presented maps and documents seized from contra chief "Ganso" which show the airports used by the mercenary forces in Costa Rican territory.

"The proof which compromises the Costa Rican and Honduran governments is big," the military chief said. One of the documents seized from the annihilated contra group indicated that the shipment included 33 pounds of medicine from the FDN supply center located in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Regarding the country's southern neighbor, Calderon said there are intelligence reports about the reconcentration of contra groups in the area of El Castillo. He also charged that the EPS troops in La Penca, Sarapiqui, and other locations are being attacked by rifle fire from Costa Rican territory. "There are plans to recover those positions," he indicated.

The seized shipment contained a large number of well-packed leaflets with precise instructions to undertake terrorist actions against electricity and telephone lines, fuel trucks, and other targets.

"Always damage three of the four legs of the electric towers with 2 and 1/2 pounds of plastic explosive for each one," the leaflet, which includes drawings with instructions, stated. Ironically, the terrorist publication stated that the explosion does not harm civilians.

The military chief said the counterrevolutionary plans are to militarily besiege the area of Rio Escondido and Rama and to establish caches of ammunition and weapons in an uninhabited area of Punta Gorda so as to guarantee regular supplies for the contras.

He added that the central CIA station told the mercenary forces that they must continue the terrorist actions against civilian targets. A message from "Dragon" and "Mack" told contra chief "Ganso" that "we suggest that it is essential for the sabotage of the electricity and telephone system in your area to continue."

The military chief explained that the terrorists are carrying out these actions because the contras are incapable of confronting the EPS troops, which in a 15-day period have killed 92 contras and captured 14.

During the operation called "Heroes of Batahola," the troops of the Territorial Companies of the 53rd Brigade and the Pedro Altamirano BLI [Battalions for Unconventional Warfare] seized personal documents of contra chief "Ganso." They included a copy of a letter sent by the ARDE command to President Reagan.

In the letter, dated 19 January 1987, they asked him to issue precise orders to guarantee them rapid and regular supplies by the White House. The fighting morale of the contras is such that the so-called "Ganso" abandoned his personal diary and his modern AR-15 rifle with an adapted telescopic sight. "We do not see that they have any prospects; we are liquidating them," Calderon told the journalists.

CRITICA'S INTERVIEW WITH DIAZ HERRERA

PA081904 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Jun 87 pp 1, 34, 35, 36, 38

["Full text" of remarks by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, former chief of staff of the Panamanian Defense Forces, to "opposition media" 6 and 7 June, 1987, in Panama City; item appears under the byline of Carlos J. Nunez L.; first nine paragraphs are CRITICA introduction]

[Text] After visiting the Valley of the Half Moon [Valle de la Media Luna] to visit the Virgin of that name, in Portobelo, where he went with his wife, who is a faithful believer, Mr Roberto Diaz Herrera has made two sets of remarks that have seriously worried his family and close friends.

His family and friends are not concerned about his safety, but because they have noticed certain mental behaviors. After retiring at the end of 26 years of continuous service in the Armed Forces, people began to notice a number of changes, both in his personal -- or mental -- behavior and in his intellectual behavior; that is, in his daily life.

One of these changes or transformations is his so-called devotion to a Hindu guru known as "Sai Baba" or "God Man," who has been gaining many fanatics, particularly in India, where the cult began.

Based on a photo that we published today, we see that "Sai Baba" is a black man with an Afro hairdo.

According to Mr Roberto Diaz Herrera, he made contact with "God Man" during his latest trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to religious experts, "Sai Baba" is an arrogant charlatan.

The first set of remarks by Mr Diaz Herrera was transmitted immediately by Channel 13 Television. We learned that the television station was unable to broadcast the complete version of the interview because it was almost 1 hour long. CRITICA has learned that Channel 2 Television will broadcast the full version of the interview with Channel 13 tonight.

We will publish the full text of the remarks he made to opposition media in today's editon.

Government sources told CRITICA last night that during the Sunday program "All for the Fatherland," Diaz Herrera's work was highlighted and praised and that part of the Channel 13 interview, during which Diaz Herrera praised the Defense Forces and his colleagues, was broadcast.

CRITICA, the newspaper with the largest circulation in Panama, offers below the textual and full remarks made by Mr Roberto Diaz Herrera to the reporters mentioned above in his residence and which the newspaper LA PRENSA published partially.

Diaz H.: ... Winston Robles [member of the Popular Action Party] and I complained that yesterday they had cut my interview with Channel 13 although they promised to use it. That is all. And they did not dare publish it, not even in the independent newspaper LA PRENSA. How high is our level of fear in Panama? I don't know what happened to the only newspaper that calls itself independent, because EXTRA is no longer in circulation. However, it so happens that I sent [the interview to] them free, because newspeople are strange.

When they want to get something they chase after a person; when someone sends it free, they don't want to publish it. In addition to that, the firepower we used yesterday was low, because I do not want to upset Panama, with Channel 2 an uncertain administration, mercenary [sentence as published]. However, today I complained to the director, Winston Robles, over the telephone, which is probably tapped, because there are many kinds of intelligence services here. LA PRENSA must have its own. And I complained that, man, I am not a friend of Winston's but ...what happened, I sent him a Betamax cassette with my full remarks. He must have heard them, and Winston edited the cassette. I was G-2 [chief of intelligence], so I know how this is handled. I used to listen to Winston's conversations when he called Chinchorro [Ruben Dario Carles, former cabinet member] to go somewhere. It's as simple as that. I repeated to Winston again and again to see if the new Betamax didn't have anything on problems, whether he could show it complete. [as received] Because none of the television stations, not even TV-2, which is half mine, as a result of an inheritance General Torrijos left us, of the many that he left us, mainly moral legacies, (someone cleared his throat) and Diaz told him: Don't drown in a glass of water. [sentence as published]

Do not go into shock right there because you are going to hear some serious stuff, so don't be stupid and toughen your act because here we will be in my house, we are in my house, okay? You are guerrillas; not me. I have always been stupid, listening to stupidities. I am an intellectual, and lately, an esoteric.

Rafael Candanedo: Listen, you talked about ...

Diaz Herrera: No, yes here are the weapons on that matter. [sentence as published] There it is, take a picture. This is the man. This is the man whom they fear, not me. This is the man they fear, because they know who he is. I am not the only one who has read about him...uh, do you know why they did not want to publish my declarations, why they edited and cut off part of my declarations? It was obvious, they cut part of them because I talked about esoterism. In addition to objective and correct politics, about which I am also able to talk, I talked about esoterism. They fear the [subject of] esoterism. Look, Fidel [Castro] is esoteric, did you know that? I have spoken twice with Commander Castro, and have spoken in those terms, and he is esoteric. Do you know why? I do not know your opinion about esoterism, neither do I know the dictionary definition for the word esoteric. However, despite being a Marxist-Leninist, he [Castro] is an spiritual man, a real human being, a great friend, not only of Panama, but a very dear friend to me. They [not further identified] are now investigating who Shri Sati Sai Baba is. He is a secret, powerful weapon, whom they fear. He is a black man, with an Afro, who I saw for the first time in Buenos Aires. I had never been involved in esoterism. I learned it from General Noriega, through the books he had. You know, he was a devotee. I am talking about 15 years ago. The first books, I asked him -- since we were friends -- to lend me those books on Buddhism... all those books on that subject. I never finished reading any of the books. I am a military academy graduate, I do not have a wide esoteric foundation. Besides, what is esoterism? It is also known as the occult; why the fear? Why are you afraid of that man... give me that thing... [as published] you are afraid of that man simply because he has shown he is nothing more and nothing less than a new divine incarnation, just like Christ. There are four priests, and jot this down, who have that book, Father Ernesto Jaen (reporters laugh), write it down, you, you are all like stupid or what ... you sit there dozing off. (reporters laugh)

Oh, you are taping, all right... I said, Father Ernesto Jaen, you know what line he follows, more like the popular church, left-wing type. I don't know what damn thing, well, let's see. I told Father Rosendo Torres of Radio Hogar, a Jesuit, theologian, I gave him the same book about "Saty Sai Baba." I call him "Swami," because we are now very close friends, that is the problem. You are afraid, "Swami," with a "w" to Father Carlos Villalobos... who is the other priest who had that book... and Father Carlos Perez Herrera, who despite not being an active priest, knows about theology. Do you know why he knows about theology? You are too young. Do you know who Carlos Perez Herrera is? He was vice president of the extreme left wing during the past electoral campaign. There are other people to whom I have given books, Norma Nunez, who is here, it is nothing like that, a woman of well known past, my wife, Dalys Vargas, all real left-wing people, Nestor, Dalys Vargas, Norma Nunez. I have always been called a communist, left winger, and atheist. They have used those names a lot on me, but now, when I want to talk a little bit about esoterism, and now when I am retiring, retired, or retirable or half-way retired, like they have said, I want to come close to the road of God, they get scared. [sentence as published] Why? Why? Fidel understands that. Have you met Fidel? Personally? Did you ever speak with him? Man, what's the matter partner? You are being operatic... I have spoken with him twice, but not about semantics, very deeply.

Jose Quintero de Leon: That road to God that you say you are choosing or beginning to seek, on what principles is it based, because fear can come from that.

Diaz H.: Fear of what can come?

Reporter: You said that...

Diaz H.: Something happens, boy, are you a Marxist-Leninist or not? You are supposedly an "agnostic," aren't you? Then fear of what? Of God? In the shape of God? Of a black man with an Afro? What's the problem? Why so much fear? People have prepared a dossier on me using my secretaries in a cruel way, people who worked with me, humble people. Torrijos taught us never to persecute the humble.... Man, you face a heavyweight like you, or a middleweight like me... I do not weigh a thing, but I can find someone... but not humble people... but Torrijos taught us always to respect the humble. [sentence as published] And I think that is the concept, any good president, not only Fidel, I think that...man, I think that Al-Qadhdhafi, even though they call him a terrorist, would not kill children. I think that Reagan was wrong, because if he wanted to kill Al-Qadhdhafi that is all right, but the target should have been Al-Qadhdhafi because he is accused of being a guerrilla; maybe, I don't know, that is a matter of judgment, but don't kill a girl in Tripoli, I disagree with that. I never agreed with Somoza, that is why, shoot, even though I have held more powerful positions, secretary to General Torrijos for many years, when he made contact with President Carter, Carlos Andres Perez, Oduber, Lopez Michelsen, and the initial Contadora Group was put together to fight satrapy. [sentence as published] I also believe that the United States does not have to be our perpetual enemy, that is another of my opinions.

[Text] Norma Nunez: I see you are in bad shape then.

Diaz H.: I am going to show you the banner. He [referring to Sai Baba] sent it to me from India. The thing is that the intelligence services of various countries have learned about it. I do not know, look at the banner. For those who are theologians, the banner indicates... [changes thought] I do not know anything besides the cross and that is because my wife reads the Bible, she is Christian. This is the Muslim, this the Hebrew, this is Buddhism and this is Hinduism, and here is a torch that indicates he wants the union of all world religions through a true "consolidation" [consolido] -- without intermediaries -- on which to base them all, no more no less.

Jose Quintero: Is that the same as Baha'i thinking?

Diaz H.: I do not know, I do not know anything about that. Look, this story began in Buenos Aires, it has esoteric implications, but it is not like it is a priority. It is deeply involved with politics for Panama. Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez [leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party] knows about this, you can quote him. I am refering to "Sai Baba", this black guy with an Afro and the thing [not further identified]. Similarly Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, a politician of no less a stature than he, knows about this, because he has talked about this before people that I respect very much. I do not want to be disloyal, but for example, he talked about esoterism, before I did. He told me that he had spoken with General Torrijos' spirit at least twice in the Dominican Republic. I do not know through what means, but he told me that Torrijos' spirit was restless, because he had been murdered. That is what Pena Gomez told me and his thesis agrees with that of others; not with mine, but with the thesis of Commander Fidel Castro. The first time I went there he [Castro] told me he had received General Paredes [former Panamanian commander in chief] -- that was around 1983 -- but of course he told me: Diaz Herrera -- you know how he speaks -- do you think Torrijos was murdered? I told him, man, it was an accident, there was turbulence. I do not know, but those were the statements made. Later on there were other facts. I do not want to talk about that. I am not going to give any details on that issue, unless it is before the country's attorney general and witnesses whom I deem worthy. I am not even going to speak about the Supreme Court of Justice. I respect it highly on a personal level, I also respect the attorney general, he is my friend; but there are enemies.

Listen, the problem is that only 10 days after my retirement I am realizing that people are shaking in Panama, really shaking. Not even LA PRENSA and other papers wanted to publish anything. Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla [owner of Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish] promised me that he would broadcast the entire interview. That was all I asked him yesterday. All I asked him was to publish the entire interview. I told them not to edit it. I know all about that. I was director of public relations once. Lino Concepcion made me a promise. Ah! But they did give me a copy... What did they want to edit or cut out? Esoterism! Of course I also mentioned a very specific and objective matter as the Marxists say. What? Man, when I say things like I highly respect Carlos Ivan Zuniga and starting with three. [sentence as published] I met him in Lima many years ago. To me he was a moderate socialist, in the European style, but I do not want to classify people. He is an honest man, although Torrijos said that no one is chemically pure. I said that in the interview. I said that I respect Dr Zuniga and that I am a personal friend of his, reporter Luis Jimenez says (acting as adviser). ["sentence" as published] I also mentioned Mario Galindo [member of the Central Committee of the Independent Democratic Movement].

He is not my personal friend, but I respect him a lot. I also mentioned someone I respect a lot and I also said something about a trip to Farallon with Dalys and a group of people from INAC [National Culture Institute]. She has been persecuted for leftist leanings and other ideas and I thought that it was truly unfair to be persecuting books on communism and things in a modern country.

Does that mean that only because Moravia Ochoa [not further identified] writes an ode for Che or for Fidel, he has to be persecuted? No. Those are hesitations, [as published] that is good and I defended it completely... Noses were broken to keep newsmen, I mean writers, under control, under surveillance. Man, who can write anything under those circumstances? Poems are written the way they are written, but he [not further identified] is afraid of people making odes to Fidel's beard or to Allende [former Chilean president]. Man let me tell you, if people read those things it is because they want those things.

In that interview, I also said that Graciela Dixon told me that. Listen, I am saying she told me that; I can say that, because I know she will not deny it; she is an honest person. On our way to Farallon, I told her: Graciela -- that was after a half-hour lecture I gave her, one of many -- let us finish with this fight, whatever the cost, economic plan, loyal to my conviction, I think that Reagan has been an extraordinary president. [sentence as published] Listen to that idea. The measure in which people want to punish him is something else. In the same way that I respect Fidel Castro, I respect Reagan's capacity to reach the greatest level of popularity of the last decades despite the Irangate issue. People underestimate him because he was a movie star. I do not know whether he is or not, because the United States is so complex just like the Soviet Union or Cuba. [sentence as published] In addition, countries should be led as a whole, as a state, as a team.

Fidel has an extraordinary team. I imagine Reagan must also have one. Gorbachev must have one. Speaking of Gorbachev, look, Russia is spending many millions to study paranormal phenomena. Did you know that? Do you know about this? They have people talk from Moscow to Leningrad through telephathy and other things. That has been going on for years, man. Then when one brings out a man like Shri Saty Sai Baba, people get nervous. Why should they get nervous? I have not wanted to attack anyone. I have worked with Manuel Antonio Noriega and other commanders, but first I worked with Torrijos, very closely. I have been his [Noriega's] friend. He was my friend. I sent him word that I wanted to be his ally because I do not want to provoke a crisis in Panama based on personal issues. I have a family to protect. But I have seen fear. Look, on Sunday I called the Apostolic Nunciature and a sort of Vietnamese priest answered. I asked him if he would come hold a Christian, Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Mass and he told me he could not, because the report that I was retiring, that I was in disgrace, was already circulating. I called Father Guardia, who says he is very brave to attack the government. I told him, Father, come, the wife wants a little advice. He refused; he balked at holding a Mass.

Let's see who else we called. We called Father Villalobos, who is not a chaplain. He saw there was a problem. I do not criticize; I do not judge anyone, not even Manuel Antonio Noriega. Furthermore, I would speak in front of General Paredes [former Defense Forces commander] at some future time. In addition, there are other things that could be aired here. There has been great apprehension here. I am not accusing anyone of Torrijos' death. The Torrijos family has documentation -- Moises Torrijos, Hugo Torrijos, and several other Torrijoses.

I do not have nor did I handle that documentation. It has been handled. It is in the Dominican Republic. Dr Pena Gomez knows that. Over there they began to see facts, it has been mentioned, that I do know. I could reveal them in front of prominent Panamanian witnesses, if I had full guarantees for my family. And I ask that my house be guaranteed because I no longer have any confidence in the Panamanian security services.

Candanedo: Why?

Diaz H.: I have sufficient reasons that I would mention in front of prominent individuals, but not now. I could say things. I do not want to judge anyone, but direct or indirect things could be mentioned, or things that could lead to clarifying what we know has shaken the Panamanian people: the crime concerning Dr Hugo Spadafora, who was a guerrilla -- and whatever he was, a politician, fine. Things could be clarified with Attorney General Villalaz, with former Attorney General Calvo, and with some other people. I do not agree with that crime; I never did. Nevertheless, accusations were made against me. LA PRENSA made those accusations -- of being the mastermind, etc.

Call Dr Ricardo Velasquez, who was his close friend, and ask him whether I had something to do with the crime. You can call him right away; let him tell me. Let Spadafora's brother, Winston, say if I had something to do with it. Let Winston Spadafora say it. I repeat, I do not want to accuse anyone.

So I have to be careful. I said yesterday -- they did not air it in the interview -- that one takes secrets of state if one holds a position of responsibility, because I am going to say man, it is normal in all countries -- in Cuba, the United States, Russia, Peru, Spain -- for there to be electronic bugging of people. Why shouldn't I say they have been recording my conversations of Alfredo Ramirez and Gilberto Arias [opposition figures]. I heard them while I was in G2. I had to hear them; that was my duty as chief of state security. What was I going to do? Even my wife sometimes had to hear the dirt. That is a state duty. Still, I do not like that music, and fortunately I did not last a long time there. I repeat, I do not want to fight. They are looking for a fight with me, and you know what the weapon is they fear most? It is the one you have in your hands right now. You know it is Sai Baba. They are conjuring up a fabrication they are sending to Cuba, the United States, and somewhere else. That is why we have to stop this: so there will be no more fighting in Panama, so it will not be said I am crazy. Dr Jaime Arroyo can testify about my psychological health. Jot is down -- Jaime Arroyo, a well-known psychiatrist here, and Dr Alfredo Hidrovo, among others, who has seen me for 18 years. He comes to see me almost every day at my house. He is a highly regarded internist in Panama. He is an internist and an oncologist, in case they say I have cancer or they invent that I have been to Miami. I have had to leave the country because I have children abroad; I have family there, and I have friends here in Panama and abroad. I have had to come out in my defense. I have endured many things that I have kept silent, but we can clarify all this for the good of Panama. I am not moved by a single political or personal motive other than the well-being of this country, your country, your children's country. Why is there so much fear and anguish in Panama?

That was something I said but which was also omitted. I asked a doctor, asked a young man here, a neighbor, Teran. I asked him what the main disease in Panama is. He says, the common cold. He says, heart disease. No, boy, I told him. No man. Anguish, everyone is in anguish. I am not saying that someone in particular is to blame for that anguish. Man, everyone could have it, even I, who, as they say, ousted presidents. I have never ruled in this country.

You think I have had power? I have had a share, pieces of the cake. All right, you want to know something? Look, you, the Cuban, this house is worth millions. I said yesterday that it was half stolen. They did air that didn't they? This house was built with money from the people who came from Cuba, from the visas. I was chief of the General Staff. I signed those visas, and I was given part of that money. I gave it to my wife, Maigualida. Ah, but it was not only one package. There were about three packages; I grabbed one of them.

Man, if one tries to be too honest, things also go wrong, and as Torrijos taught me, no one is chemically pure. He gave me a tip: Don't be stupid, Roberto; if you pretend to be very straight and pure a common cold will get you. So I told Maigualida: Here, this money is for the house. The problem is that she likes architecture and the price went way up. And here you are, in your house, a product of sweat. I tell you, some people here are after Mayin Correa. The money comes from the sweat of these people -- of worms, no, not worms, whatever they are called -- who get their money from Miami or other places to take people out of Cuba. Fidel never charges anything. He gives out visas. The Americans stopped that; then they resumed it. That is why this house is half stolen. I am not ashamed. I have already asked God for forgiveness. Man, if it is necessary that it be taken away from me, let them take it away from me. Let's take things away from each other in this country. I assume the responsibility. This is a confession. However, there are other things. I would say these things under oath and even before prominent witnesses -- things such as the death of Torrijos, the Spadafora crime, and other things that seem minor. Yet human lives are involved. The kidnapping of a Jewish child occurred, a maid was hanged...Well, why talk about those things? It is a Christian family. [as published] Pay close attention, because I am going to talk about religion: Fidel and religion, with Friar Beto. I firmly believe in Jesus Christ, who, with my mother, nurtured me in a crib. I was born on the day of the Virgin of Perpetual Assistance, on 27 June 1931. I have a daughter who was born on the day of the Virgin of Carmen. That is why I said yesterday that the problem is that I have a mother who was a cripple for 6 years. She was bedridden for 6 years, and the last 2 years she had to have a tube in her stomach, and we could not bring her to San Fernando [Hospital] where there was some psychotherapy, because there was no money. Imagine, with this house I have now, I had no money. But I was born in the countryside of a very humble family. My father was a hardworking man and my mother was extraordinary. I am not ashamed. On the contrary, those are my origins. They say, man, just because you run around with high-class people, who are you to speak, "slum man?" Please, man, I am one of the people who lives the best in Panama. You can see that. But I owe that to God.

My parents' spirit is in me, our Lord Jesus Christ, but really defended, not like some people who are afraid of it. as published] Reverends have come here to lift my spirits. There is a prayer group here 24 hours, 24 hours for me. A Brazilian reverend once came to tell me, when the Catholic priests left, that they are praying in pairs 24 hours. Why should they do it? Because I am retiring. I am not afraid. I said it yesterday, man. The word retirement [jubilacion] comes from the word joy [jubilo]. They are calling all my former secretaries to make up a dossier, to conduct activities like psychological persecution. I know the psychological weapons, too. I have handled them. You know how many hours I stayed with my personal friend, even though he does not want to be my friend. I admire him a great deal -- a hardworking and very honest woman [as published] from a deeply Christian family, Nicolas Arditdo Barleta. Romulo Escobar was there; Dr Abadia was there; as was General Noriega and Colonel Justines. Then Gerardo Gonzalez arrived. It took me 14 hours to twist Nicky Barletta's arm. They say that around there it is called vox populi. In my house, I can also give details. In another place in Golf [Heights] the final part of the fraud of Nicolas Ardito Barletta was carried out with Magistrate Yolanda Pulice and Magistrate Rolando Murgas. There is more information. That is not enough news. You are like...what's wrong -- laughter -- very interesting, Jose Quintero says.

Now they say I am crazy, and they bring in the psychiatrist. I put up Jaime Arroyo and they bring in someone else. Then I have to put up someone else because there they buy everyone and make them say whatever they want. Maybe they are beginning to intimidate Jaime, a great human being and personal friend. He was vice minister under Torrijos, and that is how the friendship began. Man, and when I feel like this, depressed, kind of confused, eventually I would feel there is a problem in saying that one has seen a psychiatrist. I have seen one, Dr Gustavo Bayo. Jot that down. He is a personal friend. Two of them. See, I have mentioned two already, and they can testify about things -- that I have not suffered disorders, but only neurovegetative disorders [distonias neurovegetativas]. Jot down that term.

Maigualida de Diaz: It was the product of all the tension.

Diaz Herrera: It was just as my wife said. I had this neurovegetative disorder. Fortunately, it was in the past. It was paroxysmal tachycardia -- you know what that is: rapid heartbeats, high blood pressure, that type of thing. They actually partially incapacitated me. All this was in Torrijos' time. My divorce, my children, all of this caused me a great deal of personal stress. We have had all kinds of problems. Some people get stomach trouble; I had that kind of problem. I have had check-ups; there must be a chart around somewhere. I went to a clinic in Houston with President Lakas twice. Gen Torrijos sent me to be checked, and they always told me: "tension." I would say: What is wrong? I still have tachycardia. I couldn't fully understand until they explained what this consists of: bouts of stress [preceding word in English] common to people, men, in those positions, because God put them there.

I believe that God put me there, even though I have done certain things. However, I dare to confess those things. If we all confessed the things that we did, opposition, Christian Democrats, in the past -- furthermore, we no longer have to say in the past, because we ourselves are in the past, as Torrijos used to say. [sentence as published] I quote Jesus Christ: "Let he who has nothing to hide cast the first stone." [quotation as published] Go ahead, I want to see who are the pure people here.

Jimenez: Colonel, you spoke of fraud. Could you give some details?

Diaz Herrera: I can give more details here in my house, my former house in El Golf neighborhood, which has now been sold to a company called Lusa Real Estate. Moreover, I participated with Gen Noriega in a full-scale effort to keep Dr Arnulfo Arias from becoming president. Why? Because of something I mentioned yesterday. They left it there, more or less. [sentence as published] He was always, on every occasion, structurally against the institution [of the Armed Forces], and we felt that he was a man who could rock the foundations of the institution.

That was it, then. We made a great political effort. Colonel Justines and I talked with Cesar Arrocha once in his house. I was at the head of the attempt to get MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] to join the group of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], etc. It also fell to me to twist the arm of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, telling him: Enough, Tuturo [Delvalle's nickname]; we are going to unite because Arnulfo Arias is going to cook our goose. He kept saying: But the numbers are not right, Roberto. The numbers do not come out right.

Once in the home of a man who has businesses at the airport, I was invited to a big party, I think by a friend of Toro Balladares [former Finance Minister Ernesto Perez Balladares]. I believe it was a party of about 200 people. I had to tell him then: Dammit, Tuturo, join with us or the bogeyman will get us. It also fell to me to tell Cesar Arrocha after 2 hours of conversation: Don Cesar, give us your support; get some sensible people to come over to us, because it is said that I am a communist.

I have that reputation. That is used quite a bit when they want to harm you, but now that I am talking of God, no one wants anything to do with me. Imagine that. They even want to deny me a safe-conduct. Not even the priests want to come here to talk of God. I just called to Father Chendo. Poor man, I do not blame him. Msgr McGrath knows about Sai Baba and the whole story, because I called Father Chendo "inspectori" [as published] in front of Father Villalobos and Rosendo Torres, Villalobos, [as published] and Nestor Jaen. They have information that they could give you. Seek them out. Tell them that I authorize them to release my confessions. I unleash the inspectori. Let them talk. All of us are going to talk here, with or without fear.

You are not afraid, right? When I called LA PRENSA and asked them what happened; do you know what they told me? That there was no typist. I sent this cassette at 2000 to LA PRENSA, which is always chasing news, which portrays us often as colonel, as two environments. [sentence as published] They have reported events that occurred at 0100, yet, I send them a cassette at 2000 and they do not dare to publish it, or else their secretary got messed up. Please, gentlemen. We sent a tape to be circulated to the international agencies, and they did not dare do it, either. What is happening to this country? I am not braver than anyone else. I am very frightened, particularly at this time, but I want to share this with you.

Candanedo: Do you fear for your life?

Diaz Herrera: Of course. I know there was an order given on Wednesday to murder me; I can give you the details later. Why? What have I done, committed a fraud? A lot of us have done that. Did I steal this house? I am now confessing it; I reaffirm it; and let them take it away -- but let us take things away from everyone. There, now you have something to chew on. I am not brave, and I have a deep fear for my family, my wife -- they are good people. The sins I committed, I confess to them anywhere; but my family is absolutely not responsible for my political life. I am aware of my birth, and I have said I have to die someday like all human beings. Are you not all going to die?

Mrs Diaz Herrera: I want to say something. As a woman, as a wife, and as a mother, I want to make a statement at this moment. If something were to happen to us, I immediately hold Gen Noriega and Colonel Alberto Purcell responsible.

Diaz Herrera: We can support that later. She has already done so as a woman. I did not want to go that far, but I cannot control my wife's emotions. Please forgive her. I forgive everyone, because they [not further identified] have had her under tremendous pressure these last 4 or 5 months, something you should not do to a woman or a child -- to humble people. Let them do it to me, if they want to, if they want to fight with me. I have sent three messages to Gen Noriega telling him I want to speak to him alone. Furthermore, I publicly announce here that I want publicly to debate him on network television, with no remark edited, because I know very well how these things are done. I have just stepped out from there myself. Call the television stations not to broadcast things. I know how LA PRENSA has been gagged.

I also know they [not further identified] told them that they were going to bomb it, like the time they caused that little damage to the rotary presses. Paredes [former FDP Commander Ruben Dario Paredes] was there. Hell, I was there; I know how it was done. I imagine they now told them what else they were going to do; that they are going to screw Sanchez Borbon [writer Miguel Angel Borbon, now in self-imposed exile in Miami], that they are going to screw so-and-so. Please, a journalist is a journalist. I am not at all brave. If you touch me now, I am shaking as if I were crazy; I am shaking.

Rafael Candanedo: Colonel...

Diaz Herrera: Touch me, I am shaking as if I were crazy. What is your name? Luis. (It is difficult to hear because he is clapping his hands together very loudly) [phrase in parentheses as published]

Diaz Herrera: Luis, how old are you?

Luis: I am 19.

Diaz Herrera: You have a lifetime ahead of you. Do you study at the university?

Luis: Yes.

Diaz Herrera: What are you studying?

Luis: Graphic design.

Diaz Herrera: Have you graduated? Do you have children? Do you have a wife? Are you going to have one? Do you have a girlfriend? What do you want for this country?

Luis: Calm down.

Diaz Herrera: One of the corrupt and filthy policies...

Luis: What do I want for this country? For there to be no crisis.

Diaz Herrera: In what way?

Luis: Jobs, a good government.

Diaz Herrera: A good government, and what else?

Luis: By the way, is there one?

Diaz Herrera: No, there is not a good government. I do not have to tell you that. There are no economic plans here; there is no Torrijism here; there is nothing. All we have here is perfect chaos, do you see? There is not a single economic plan here to present to the IMF; there is nothing but a bunch of irresponsibles. We have left this country with a large infrastructure, with other things, with other bad things. Anyway, there should be plans to present to my son, to your son. It is not just my children, and it is not demagoguery for my children to enjoy themselves. Of course, there is hierarchy and class structure even in the communist countries. However, there is competition. I want to get along well with the Americans. I am no longer chief of staff, but they [not further identified] always wanted to deny me this opportunity. They never took me along to a meeting with General Galvin; only to social meetings where Central American topics were discussed. I am not an enemy of the Americans, but they [not further identified] have been using me savagely lately. The fact that the PRD was taken from me -- do you believe that makes me afraid? Do you think I should be concerned what happens within the PRD? They are tearing out each other's guts. They make me sick.

That was not Torrijos' legacy. Absolutely. Torrijos may have been as bad as he was capable of being; however, he was responsible in this country. He was responsible in many ways; he delved as deeply into many subjects -- the far extreme leftwing, which he called Bonapartist bourgeoise -- as we. Look, am I a bourgeois or not? Look where I am living. I dare to invite anyone here to my home, regardless of social class. I do not hide my sins, and I want to clarify that. However, we should all do it, and I want a conference of this nature, a television panel discussion with Monsignor McGrath. I believe in the Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Church. The only thing is that this man, Sai Baba, is an avatar, which in Hindu means a prophet, who has proven that he has divinity. I am going to tell you one thing, so you will believe me. Sai Baba sent me a message via an envoy -- I am not going to disclose things, as you newsmen do -- that he was going to do a few things so we would believe in him. He predicted what later occurred at Red Square in Moscow. He explained about a small plane from West Germany flying and violating USSR air space, the second superpower in the world. He said to be aware, and to tell this to Gorbachev. Then his envoy said -- I was very afraid about believing in this man -- if you want more -- specific proof, I will mention Howard Air Force Base, which supplies everything for Central America. It is full of everything, radar, etc. A small Costa Rican plane landed there with a Costa Rican pilot. Who said he had landed there by accident? How can you just land there, or at Red Square in Moscow? Can you imagine that, companero?

Quintero: It is not easy.

Diaz Herrera: Well, if he [not further identified] wants, he could land [the plane] in front of the White House, warning him [not further] identified. This is why they fear him. We are almost done, almost done; there is a lot there, is there not?

Quintero: Colonel, your retirement has been prepared 4 or 5 months ago?

Diaz Herrera: I have said this to Gen Noriega, and I am now saying it here to Colonel Justines and Colonel Alberto Purcell. They heard me say in November that I would be leaving when the Assembly tried Roberto Velasquez [former housing minister] because of a problem with some lumber. Yes, indeed, there was a deal with the lumber. I can affirm this later before notable witnesses such as Msgr McGrath, the nuncio. I will say it before the most notable people in the country. I will explain this, and what will happen with this matter? Ah, they want to blame me for all the filth. I will explain; I will indeed explain what occurred with that matter, who was involved, who directed it, and what kind of briefcases [maletines] were there. Truly, can you see why I am afraid? Do you not see?

Jiminez: You are trembling.

Diaz H.: Sure, what do you think, do you not think that this causes fear? Would you dare to say it? Touch my hands; you are also aware of my emotions, adrenalin. Do you not think so?

Quintero: Do you have hard feelings?

Diaz H: No hard feelings, no hard feelings. He has daughters; Lorena, Tais, Sandra. I know Felicidad. We were friends during my first marriage. We are friends. I do not know what has happened. I do not know what has happened. I do not wish to poison anyone. This country does not need more anguish. I have tried to avoid this. I do not want more anguish for my children. They have withdrawn my bodyguards; they have withdrawn my guards. That is all right; I am living in peace. Doesn't he say that we are friends? Then why am I being treated like an enemy? I told him: I never want to be in the same position as General Paredes. Well, he has his methods and his reasons. I don't criticize. I was sent a telegram. I did not want this, but they have said that they are drawing up a dossier stating I am crazy. Let's find out who is crazy; let's do it in front of television cameras; let's call in qualified doctors, any group of doctors and Sai Baba. I will hold a news conference to continue to expand on this.

Norma, or Mrs Diaz: But they must first read the book.

Diaz H.: Let them read it. Therefore, I repeat, I feel no hate.

Diaz H: Thank you for coming. They are the ones who watch over me. Today I demand merely to be protected. In the first place, I am sure God is watching over me. God, Jesus Christ our Lord, Sai Baba, that man who is protecting me. The Holy Virgin, from the town where I was born -- she is Our Lady of Perpetual Assistance -- you can imagine how I need the help of the Virgin of Perpetual Assistance, who watches over the retired persons who want to go somewhere.

I will give you additional information in the presence of notables from this country, anyone they care to name. I do not care who they are. I will object to some people, not because I do not feel they are worthy, but because of their fear...can you imagine, if they have scared LA PRENSA newspaper into not printing anything...how did they manage this? I do not know. The television channels did not want to broadcast anything, not even a simple interview that did not contain anything very serious, just a few things that they did not want to broadcast because they were afraid. That is all. Sai Baba; I did not mention him before, I am mentionaing him now. Now I am saying directly. Who is my ally? His name is Shiri Saty Sai Baba. He lives in Putaparti, India. Maybe they will send someone there to see if they can...get him...if they can. Fidel, you must send him a tape. Tell him it is from me. I sent a cassette today to the Cuban Embassy, with the complete recording so this one completes the other.

Reporter: Could you tell us about these danger signals you mentioned?

Diaz H: Well, there are several, several. But be on the alert, on the alert.

Reporter: Were there any direct threats from those remaining in the institution?

Diaz H.: Well, someone called me -- I am not going to say who -- to tell me to become actualized. I said, actualized concerning what? OK, this is the last thing I am going to say, the news is over. The last thing...I talk too much. Twelve is the key number. I am going to mention it but I will say it half in jargon. There are $12 million in Switzerland, which General Torrijos left. He [not further identified] has a lot of fear because of that information. I found out about it a posteriori. He had mentioned to me once -- and I say it here -- well, he is dead, but he is not dead. [repeats himself] He is dead, but he is not dead. He had told me once that when the Shah of Iran came here, I asked what he wanted -- what Torrijos wanted. Torrijos handled money, but he passed it along; he passed along. That is how he aided the Sandinists, he passsed it along. His children -- go ask them if they are millionaires -- he left a house to the widow and other things, such as property in Las Mananitas -- in short, normal things, I would say. He left $12 million which the shah of Iran gave him. Instead of keeping it for himself, he established a clause that no one knew about. He did say something to me that the shah was going to give us something and that he should stop trying to get contracts and things. You see, in this country we are all a little greedy.

In fact, you can put Ricardo Arias Calderon [Christian Democratic leader] in power. I do not know, I cannot judge, just put him at the head of the government and I really do not know what kind of government he would make.

But those $12 million were given to Torrijos by the shah and he said now, put them in a Swiss bank for the 12 boys of the General Staff, and there it is. In 1981 he died, then later it was found this money was there. There have been two attempts to get that money out. Moises Torrijos tried to get it out, as a relative, and I do not criticize him, but apparently it was not possible for some reason. Later an engineer, Julio Noriega attempted to get that money out. But that money -- imagine the ruckus that I am going to cause with this -- belongs to Commander Flore who was chief of staff, at least in 1981. I am not a lawyer, but (it also belongs to) Commander Paredes, Commander Contreras; and later to Noriega, Arauz, Bellido, Fisher, Ayala, Justines...even me. I also have my little share, but it seems that the withdrawal period has expired. The family has been trying to get the money out. To whom did I give information? To Torrijos' widow and his children. Martin Torrijos...did you not see him come in here a little while ago? That is what we were talking about. To Raquel Torrijos, Raquel Torrijos de Gomez, the daughter, who is a lawyer. I gave the information to the Torrijos, to the widow. Why? To forestall a scandal. Dr Pena Gomez had told me: Do not do it please. It will be terrible for Torrijos because they are going to accuse him of stealing. I said no; Torrijos told me the Shah wants to give me that money, because I made an agreement with Carter and did him a great favor in return for the treaty favor, and I do not need the shah's money, I am not going to be bought like that, but I do want to leave something to you who have been faithful to me. If the shah wants to give money, let him give it to you. Moreover he (Torrijos) wanted the shah to donate some money in Chiriqui [Panama's westernmost province]. I do not know what it was. The shah was not exceptionally generous either, but that was what he wanted to give. So there is an explanation, and Torrijos' personal fortune can be examined. In the General Staff he handled much money and passed it along. The $12 million are there. This information will help. I also request immediate protection for Elio Camarena, who works for the Defense Forces Defense and Security Commission. He is not responsible for anything; he gave me the information. He did not know about the shah or about the clause involving the 12 General Staff members.

He only knew that the friend of a lawyer in Switzerland by the name of Marchosky, or something like that, said there were some Swiss people wanting to report on that. He gave that information to me because he knows I am the cousin of Torrijos. In turn I gave the information to Mrs Raquel Pauzner in Rio, Brazil. She knew about it, signed some documents, and sent it. Being responsible, despite the fact that I had $1 million out of the $12 million being shared, and avoiding any problems because of the memory of Torrijos, I decided the widow [sentence as published]. Camarena did not know about the clause and said: what is this? It seems it may be lost, he said, let us call the widow and her sons. They knew about it, and I suggested the money be shared not only with her two sons but also with Torrijos children by Xenia [his mistress] -- Martin, Carmen Alicia, Dora, and Lisia Loo. These are the six children that Torrijos has recognized. I do not know if Torrijos had more or less children, but those are the ones he recognized. Those are Torrijos' family, not because I did not want the $1 million -- I am not so rich that I do not need $1 million -- but because of the the scandal that could result later. I have had that information for only 4 months. I also did not know about the deal with Julio Noriega or Monchi Torrijos until now. If I had known that, I would have talked with Gen Noriega. Look, I have talked to Gen Noriega about my retirement even before my 25th year in the military. My wife knew about it and so did several relatives. In his home, I have always called him Tony; we were friends since our childhood. He is an outstanding military man, a poor man who lives on the city's poor people and I live on the poor people of semirural areas. That is the difference; we have shared great missions and sacrifices together. I respect his family very much. I respect him very much as a person, not as an official. We are all persons and officials; sometimes this is a dichotomy. My wife is afraid, I am also afraid. I am not brave, I still fear death. I have not been able to overcome that. This man says one must not fear death, because death is like changing old clothes for new clothes and the spirit comes out and rises. He believes in reincarnation, which means there are several lives, a cycle of lives. I am learning that, and I still have the Bible here and I call upon Dalys. Do you know how I read the Bible? Chuchu Martinez, who is an atheist although he studied theology, says I read just like Saint Augustine. The method is not mine. Nothing is original in this world. A part of the Bible -- in Ecclesiastes, I believe -- states "nothing is new under the sun." Arnulfo is not crazy as some people have said in this country, because he has been elected president three times. We have overthrown him three times, but I did not have much participation in 1968 because I was a captain then. He says "history repeats itself in a spiral-like manner" because it is cyclic and evolutionary. Nothing dies, things reproduce, others come out, things evolve and that is it.

There will be another leader in Cuba when Fidel physically dies. I do not know who he will be. Fidel's death will be irreparable, because I do not know if Raul has the abilities that Fidel has. He is a very humane person. They say he killed and executed some people. Okay, those were the circumstances with Fidel. In two of our meetings, the last one with my wife, which were missed by the news media, we flew to Miami, then to the Bahamas, and then arrived in Havana. No one knew about it; otherwise, I would have been dismissed. I sent a message to President Bush [title as published], who definitely knows something about Torrijos' death. General Nutting, a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, and a Cuban from the CIA also knows something about Torrijos' death. I now speak of the CIA. The CIA has a long arm; I would have my hands full with the CIA as you can imagine. I sent a message to Vice President Bush by a messenger who was introduced to me by Baby Aleman, not because Aleman went out and looked for the messenger, but because we were all at a beach.

I told him that I wanted to help Vice President Bush so they could see that I was not an enemy of the United States. I was trying to close down the Torrijos case. I asked him: Do you have the means to talk to Vice President Bush? He was head of the CIA back in 1981. He said, there is my friend Aquilino Boyd. I told him to tell Bush that I wanted to talk to him personally with Aquilino Boyd acting as translator, because I do not speak English. How would I help? I wanted to help so there would be no revenge for the death of Torrijos, Spadafora, or any other person. Dead people are dead. They have not died, their spirits live on. I do not know, but I want people in Panama to have peace, work, housing, and other things even if we go to jail. Let us all speak in Panama, in a huge open forum that all the country, Latin America, and the world can see.

Luis: What can you tell us about narcotics traffic and related accusations that have been leveled against the Defense Forces?

Diaz H: Well, at this late stage to talk about worldwide narcotics... [changes thought] ... the truth is that I would like to end with something that comes from this book. You can open it. It has been said that it was invented by Saint Augustine. [reply as published]

Luis: Are you searching for the Apocalypse?

Diaz H: No, this is taken from the dictionary. Ah, okay. Do you believe that I am a bibliographer because of it? Let us look at it from another side, from any other side -- whatever comes out. Let us see what the Bible says, and I am not Sai Baba. Sai Baba says he has no problems with Christ, that they know each other well. Do not set them up to fight each other. He says I should not be adored or venerated. Do whatever his religion says, whatever it may be, Moslem, Hebrew, Catholic, whatever. He does not believe that any Muslim should condemn himself just because he is not Christ. He says they are not the same thing. They are under the same big roof that has one God and wants to unite all religions, as you saw on the coat of arms. That is all. Thank you for coming.

Norma: One last question.

Diaz H: Read whatever comes out. Don't change anything.

Norma: The prophet Hosea, "Ephraim reprimanded for his falsehood and oppression."

Diaz H: Come over here, because I do not understand and you are the one who is going to read. Sit here and read whatever it says there. I do not want to believe that what it says here -- and I do not know what it says -- is really like the word of God. I do not even want to call it historical because I don't want to appear histrionic or hysterical; that is not what I want.

Norma: [reads from Hosea, Chapter 12, in the Bible] "Ephraim feedeth on the wind, and followeth after the east wind: He daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.

The Lord hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him. He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial. Therefore turn thou to thy God: Keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. And Ephraim said, yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: In all my labors they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin. And I that am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast. I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets. Is there iniquity in Gilead? Surely they are vanity: They sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; year, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields. And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep.

And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved. Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: Therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Diaz H: That is good -- the Word of God.

Reporters: God be praised.

ARIAS CALDERON SAYS NORIEGA OUSTER NECESSARY

PA151821 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1750 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon today stated that only the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noriega will resolve the Panamanian crisis. Then, the possibility of forming a provisional government could be studied.

Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], noted that he has reports that Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] officers "are becoming aware that keeping Noriega as commander is too high a price for the institution." According to the PDC politician, the "national movement" that emerged a week ago "wants Noriega to fall" as a "person" and as "the regime's visible leader" and has no desire for "revenge" against other FDP officers. Arias Calderon said Noriega's "ability to maintain political control" has ended and now all that is left to occur is "an internal division" within the Army.

In the face of a possible Noriega ouster, Arias Calderon stated that "the circumstances will tell" what political solution should be adopted in the country. He refused to say if it will be insisted that 86-year old Arnulfo Arias Madrid assume office. According to the opposition bloc, of which the PDC is an important member, Arias Madrid won the 6 May 1984 presidential elections. The opposition bloc has been saying since 1984 that there was fraud in those elections to benefit Nicolas Ardito Barletta, the government candidate. This fraud was disclosed by Cesar Quintero, former Electoral Tribunal president, and Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the FDP General Staff from 8 August 1983 to 1 June 1987.

According to Arias Calderon, Gen Noriega "feels concerned" and has asked the "Marxist sectors" of the government to support him. Arias Calderon said that so far, the Liberal and Republican Parties, two of the five parties in the government coalition, have not expressed their position.

The opposition leader said the U.S. position on the Panamanian situation last week "has evolved" and sectors of the Democratic and Republican Parties are realizing that the democratization of the country is "an objective that complements strategic security." He explained that the United States has supported the current government, in which the military men meddle, because it is concerned about "the strategic security" of Panama, especially the canal.

Arias Calderon believes "the United States is making Noriega pay a high price for a difficult alternative" through "higher levels of repression."

The Panamanian political opposition maintains a campaign for the removal of the government whose legality has been left in doubt after retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera's charges of electoral fraud. Diaz Herrera also accused the commander in chief of the Defense Forces of being involved in the death of General Omar Torrijos, the leader of the 1968 military revolution, and of meddling in the country's political leadership, the reason why the opposition is demanding his "ouster."

FDP 'SOURCES' IMPLICATE DIAZ HERRERA IN PLOT

PA151742 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The involuntary retirement of Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, who was chief of staff of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] until 15 days ago, is central to the Panamanian crisis.

ACAN-EFE has learned details about this "retirement," which was in no way expected by Diaz Herrera, the second most powerful military figure and who was believed to be the rival of General Manuel Antonio Noriega Moreno.

Within the FDP, formerly the National Guard, current commander in chief Gen Noriega, "orders and commands" when he is acting in the capacity of supreme commander. However, the FDP has one peculiarity: Some decisions are made collectively, by majority vote, or unanimously, when the General Staff is convened for consultation.

Col Diaz Herrera took vacations in May and was followed by the military "intelligence" or state security service, called G-2, which is loyal to Noriega.

Spies followed Diaz Herrera to Miami and discovered that he had made a number of contracts that could imply a conspiracy to take command of the FDP.

Gen Noriega convoked the General Staff, in the absence of the chief of staff, and presented "evidence" of Diaz Herrera's maneuvers, forcing the colonel to "retire."

When Diaz Herrera returned to Panama, he learned that he has lost the hand, whereupon he began to make a series of statements containing a number of very serious charges against Noriega, charges that, if true, could also implicate Diaz Herrera himself.

The political opposition to the ruling system, which is calling for full democracy or a return to the power it lost with Torrijos' revolution in 1968, logically hastened to take advantage of the scandal provoked by the colonel, who is Torrijos' cousin.

ACAN-EFE obtained this information today from a reliable sources within the FDP, who cannot be identified.

DIAZ HERRERA TURNS DOWN ASYLUM IN SPAIN

PA160134 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Panama, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Although the Spanish Government has granted asylum to Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, the former military man now says that he does not want to leave Panama. "I do not want to leave my people," Diaz Herrera says.

The former Panamanian military officer insists that pressures and threats against him and his family forced him to request the asylum he is now turning down.

Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of staff of the Panama Army up until the end of May, requested the asylum of Felipe Gonzalez's government after the accusations he leveled against General Manuel Antonio Noriega unleashed a crisis in the country.

According to Diaz Herrera's explanations to the press -- on Sunday he read a long list of conditions for the acceptance of asylum, a list being considered by Spain -- he does not want to go to that country "or any other."

Initially, it was said that the Diaz family would possibly seek the diplomatic protection of Venezuela, Diaz's wife Maigualida's native country.

ASSEMBLY TO CHARGE BARLETTA, OTHERS OF TREASON

PA160224 Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jun (AFP) -- Tonight the Legislative Assembly approved a motion to charge former Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta and a group of businessmen and politicians for "high treas , sedition, and subversion" in the courts.

The legislative resolution accused U.S. Government sectors and the Senate of "direct intervention" in "destabilizing" actions against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Defense Forces of Panama.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SEES NO U.S. 'CONSPIRACY"

PA151345 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 15 Jun 87 pp A1, A4

[Report by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA staff writer James Aparicio]

[Text] "This type of campaign has led some groups in this country to think the U.S. Government is behind a conspiracy to change this government. We think that is far from the truth, because it would constitute a flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of our country," President of the Legislative Assembly, Ovidio Diaz, said yesterday.

Diaz, who held a press conference with foreign correspondents and some local reporters, said the recent events that provoked protests and disturbances along the main arteries of the city, and the organization of "civil crusade" organized by business ectors and political parties of the opposition with the support of economic sectors, were an escalation mounted by the opposition to break the constitutional order and impose a governing junta."

The legislator, accompanied by nine legislators of the National Democratic Union (UNADE), accused the political opposition, demanding an investigation of declarations and charges made by former Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, of being "bad, incapable Panamanians."

According to the President of the assembly, the sectors backing the government have stayed home because they refuse to have a confrontation and because they are most respectful of the suspension of constitutional guarantees.

Although he denied there were any political prisoners in Panamanian jails, Diaz accepted that some 70 antisocials were being held for criminal acts, in which he admitted, there might be some discontent, frustrated, or unemployed.

In his opinion, there are some sectors of the U.S. Senate (which do not represent the government's opinion) who "belong to the same group opposed to the signing of the treaties and the recovery of the inter-oceanic waterway."

On the claims made by the former Defense Forces colonel about electoral fraud, murders, and corruption, Diaz affirmed that Diaz "should be referred to a junta of psychologists for his Agatha Christie-type novel."

He noted that "it is possible to conduct an investigation to learn the truth. Here, nobody wants to hide the truth, but the whole truth," added, assuring that the real motive of these and other attacks were intended to affect Contadora and its pacifying efforts in Central America.

"There are many forces conspiring against Contadora," he pointed out, "they do not want a dialogue. They want war," he said.

Although Diaz gave no assurance as to how long the constitutional guarantees would be suspended he predicted that the Executive Branch will make a decision on it, once the internal situation normalizes, perhaps before the 10-day term allowed by law and its extension by the Legislative Branch.

SPADAFORA FAMILY MEMBERS TAKE ASYLUM IN CHURCH

PA140404 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0306 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Panama City 13 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Relatives of decapitated Panamanian Hugo Spadafora took asylum tonight in a Catholic church of this capital to ensure their safety.

Some 20 people, friends and members of the Spadafora family, will spend the night in Cristo Rey Church, whose parish priest allowed them to stay there as long as they do not make statements to the press.

Most members of the group had remained since Sunday, 7 June, at the home of Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, who has leveled serious charges of abuses, corruption, and assassinations against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The Spadafora family attested to the charges by Diaz Herrera with their presence and aided in guaranteeing his safety.

Diaz Herrera declared that Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega planned the assassination of the former minister and guerrilla Hugo Spadafora in September 1985, a charge that was sustained by a spokesman for the Spadafora family.

Without any specific reason, the family group, which fears for the life of several of its members, sought asylum in the Catholic church and asked Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Brown to mediate with the authorities to prevent an attack on the church.

The Panamanian Government has maintained since Wednesday a state of emergency, with the suspension of nine articles of the Constitution, including freedom of expression without prior censorship, inviolability of the home, guarantees to private property, and the right to hold meetings.

Correa Reportedly Seeks Asylum

PA121455 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] [Dr Cesar (not further identified)] The Panamanian newspaper LA PRENSA was not issued today because of censorship decreed in P. .ma. Similarly, several radio commentators have sought asylum in various embassies in Panama. This is the case of Panamanian Legislator Mayin Correa, who is member of a government party. At present, Correa has sought asylum at the papal diplomatic mission in Panama.

The newscasts of all the four television stations in Panama City have been censored. In view of that measure, newsmen who work for all those television stations have refused to go on the air if the censorship is maintained; so there was no news in Panama yesterday, even though two of those four television stations are controlled by the government. One is owned by the Panamanian president and the other belongs to the Panamanian Defense Forces.

[Unidentified reporter] Regarding that, Dr Cesar, yesterday we were talking to Dr Mayin Correa, who you just mentioned and who finally sought asylum at the papal diplomatic mission in Panama. Radio CARACOL talked to her early yesterday, and her statements and the way she described the situation that the nation is experiencing was very dramatic.

After [words indistinct] to CARACOL -- to which she made very serious accusations and reports regarding the way the civilian population is being treated -- she was harassed; her radio station was occupied; one of her properties was burned down; and she had to seek asylum at the papal diplomatic mission.

Before going to the papal diplomatic mission, Mayin Correa said the following to Radio CARACOL:

[Begin Correa recording] I am a very good friend of Dr Virgilio Barco; he is a personal friend of mine; we have been friends for almost 25 years. I helped him during his political campaign. I now ask him to help us tell General Noriega to put the weapons down. Please tell Virgilio Barco, who is my friend, to help us, the democratic people of Panama, our church, our youth. Tell him to tell Gen Noriega that we are not even going to judge him; please tell Virgilio Barco to ask Gen Noriega to go with his family to France, where he has a house. Tell Virgilio Barco to tell Gen Noriega to leave this country in peace; since he assumed power, we have never had peace. We have had a false peace; we have had anguish. Many decent people have lived in anguish and fear. Many families are claiming justice; the church is claiming justice. [end recording]

[Unidentified reporter] Dr Cesar, this was part of our interview with Mayin Correa, who has sought political asylum along with her children at the papal diplomatic mission in Panama.

FORMER FDP CHIEF DARIO PAREDES ON SITUATION

PA121406 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Jun 87 p 7

["Public letter" from General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, former commander of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, to Archbishop Msgr Marcos McGrath; dated Panama City 11 June]

[Text] Your Lordship:

Forty-eight hours ago I received an early-morning telephone call from Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, and his distinguished wife. I held a brief conversation with Diaz and with you, as you were accompanying him, at his public request. Diaz invited me to his home to united efforts in favor of "his cause."

Roberto Diaz put you on the telephone, and with your customary Christian concern over the impact of his very serious accusations, you asked me my sincere and objective opinion, particularly as a former commander of the Panamanian public force.

I answered: "Give me a few hours to analyze this very difficult situation, and I will call you back to give you my sincere and frank opinion."

You said this was all right. I understood from Roberto Diaz that you were speaking from a neighbor's telephone because the ones at his house had been disconnected. I promised to give you an answer and said I would find a way to contact you.

I have analyzed the television reports and their content, and Diaz' declarations, perhaps a dozen of them. I have analyzed his retirement. I am aware -- even though at a distance -- of various internal conflicts Diaz has had, which he himself made public; and the internal crisis in the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] several months ago. Diaz was also one of its principal subjects.

I have thought harder than you can imagine about this "crucial" moment, and I will answer you and Diaz publicly and clearly, with responsibility as a citizen who realizes that our telephone conversation, which I have cited in the above paragraphs, is common knowledge and was objectively reported by Roberto Diaz to the media.

I. MY ANSWER [subhead]

A. ON THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION OF TORRIJOS, ACCORDING TO A VERSION [subhead]

Public answer: That is untrue!

Torrijos was killed in a classic and legitimate plane accident caused by human error. This was categorically confirmed by three investigative missions that visited us and independently concluded this: "HUMAN ERROR ON ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM BAD WEATHER."

The missions included: The Canadian company that manufactured the deadly FAP [Panamanian Air Force] 205, DE HAVILLAND; The Israeli Aerospace Industry; and naturally, the Panamanian Civil Aeronautics Directorate and FAP.

These are copies of these serious reports at FDP headquarters, FAP, and the Attorney General's Office.

It is irresponsible to single out Colonel Alberto Purcell, General Nutting, retired, and the politician Arias Calderon as the intellectual authors and perpetrators of this alleged attack because they had never been connected in any way [tuvieron relacions]. Therefore, it is also untrue that then Lieutenant Colonel Noriega was involved in the accident.

B. ON THE ELECTORAL FRAUD [subhead]

Although the people knew it, it was important that he ratify this. However, in these situations, peoples grant their leaders "POLITICAL COURTESY" as long as those leading it do not lose their senses and maintain the goal of democratization, but not to benefit a few to the detriment of all.

With this same sincere objectively, I tell you that his belated confession is no longer a contribution; on the contrary, it divides the Panamanian family, and BEWARE: The street riots we are experiencing jeopardize the final goal of perfecting our independence in the face of the United States, by virtue of the TORRIJOS-CARTER Treaties.

In the United States, there are also irresponsible politicians who can capitalize negatively on the Panamanian situation...let us think as a country and not as a party...a lot of common sense...common sense...beware of throwing down the drain the sacrifice of 100 martyrs, who are making possible our absolute independence in the year 2000.

II. THE DIAZ HERRERA PROCLAMATION SHAKES THE REPUBLIC [subhead]

A. I will always remember Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, as one of my best collaborators in the General Staff during my tenure as commander of the FDP. He had courageous, intelligent, and constructive ideas, and more or less the same stature of today's General Noriega and Colonel Justines. I based most of my work as commander on them, I do not regret it. Without the firm and sincere support of these three officers, we would not have been able to implement the reforms to the 1982 Constitution, which the people overwhelmingly approved through a referendum, thus taking a very important step to support democracy, which Omar [Torrijos] had ordered before his death.

B. We must admit that the pain caused by the DIAZ PROCLAMATION is not based on patriotic sentiment...this proclamation responds to a professional and very personal frustration -- and why not say it clearly: A BOLD REVENGE against his last commander...the content of his accusations is so serious that it has become a matter of national and international interest. They are now accusations by the people, not only by Col Diaz. The people hope the facts on the assassination will be clarified. The people should analyze this observation well at this time of great uncertainty.

THEREFORE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

C. To appease our people's accumulated anxiousness for justice, citizen Roberto Diaz should go immediately to the attorney general of the Republic to formalize his accusations against the people he says killed Dr Hugo Spadafora; by this understanding, he must submit the "EVIDENCE" he claims he has.

D. It is just and very necessary, because of the importance of the case and to restore public faith, to REINFORCE the Attorney General's Office with two citizens who are undisputably honest and accepted nationally from a threesome of the National Lawyers Association.

E. He should be allowed the counsel and company of the attorneys that he chooses at this time.

F. Citizen Roberto Diaz Herrera should be granted national immunity only during the time that investigations by the Attorney General's Office are under way.

Your Lordship, please tell Mr Roberto Diaz Herrera that the figure and memory of the great humanist, chief, and friend OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA is sacred to this family. Therefore, the entire Paredes family and its close friends reject the recent statements that tend to taint the trajectory of this late patriot. Once again I ask Torrijists...that they let him rest in peace.

As in all of my life's actions, I have today, more than ever before, sought to be sincere and objective in view of the situation.

I hope in God that the people will recover peace and that the troops will return to their "CIVIC ACTION."

Sincerely,

General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired

Former Commander

Personal Identification Number 8-73-173

Terms Elections 'Fraud'

PA121733 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1349 GMT 12 Jun 87

['Exclusive' telephone interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, former Panama Defense Forces (FDP) commander, by unidentified reporter -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Reported] General, today LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and CRITICA published a letter you sent to Archbishop of Panama Marcos Gregorio McGrath, in which you made several clarifications and statements. Gen Paredes, will you please set forth that position?

[Paredes] Very well, I will with pleasure. In reality, I wrote that letter to Msgr McGrath -- I hope it was published in its entirety, I repeat, in its entirety -- because I felt compelled to do so as a citizen. I felt it was my responsibility as a citizen, as a Panamanian. It was in relation to a conversation we had the day Roberto Diaz called me at home. This was more than 72 hours ago. Early on a morning such as this, Diaz telephoned me. I had a brief conversation with him, I talked longer with Msgr McGrath, who was accompanying Diaz at the moment. Showing his deep and Christian concern -- as he always does; we all know him -- Msgr McGrath asked me a specific question: Gen Paredes, as former FDP commander, tell me your opinion; I sincerely need your opinion, your balanced opinion, your experienced opinion. I told him to give me time to analyze the situation carefully. In reality, at that very moment -- I had just returned from El Valle, in Anton -- I was not fully aware of the developments of the past few hours concerning Roberto Diaz' statement to some media sources. I then began to become informed and follow the developments through the media.

Henceforth, as a man and as a Panamanian, I decided to fulfill my promise to Msgr McGrath, and to fulfill my duty for my homeland and my people. Since they -- I assume it was retired Colonel Diaz -- made public that phone conversation, as it was mentioned 24 hours later, I decided to reply to Msgr McGrath publicly -- not to make a public statement, but so Msgr McGrath could have an exact idea of my viewpoint, which can differ from what many Panamanians think.

However, I know our people, and I am sure this is what the people feel, this is the people's reply, line, thoughts, and firm feelings. So I told my truth, my truth [repeats himself], to Msgr McGrath so he could calmly analyze it and conduct his very delicate responsibility today, at this very moment. I am also -- why not mention -- sending a message to General Noriega and to the president of the Republic. Getting to the point -- are you reading me?

[Reporter] Perfectly, general, and the country is also listening to you, general. Continue speaking, general.

[Paredes] Getting to the point -- and this is a message to my countrymen -- Diaz has made three important charges. I put myself in the shoes of John Q. Public, of the workers, peasants, whom I know very well; I put myself in the shoes of the professionals, students, and the Panamanian women. I will give you my opinion as if I represented that great people.

At this stage, people do not really care whether there was or was not fraud. In my opinion, there was fraud. That is my opinion, my serious opinion. I hope you will also be serious and will publish it. There was fraud. However, I want to be a constructive and objective critic toward that great people. People were not categorical at the polls. In other words, people did not express themselves vigorously, thus providing the opportunity for a close margin between government and opposition forces. People gave exactly the necessary margin for this government, or any other government -- any other government would have done the same -- to maneuver and retain power. In other words, people know that the victory was not overwhelming enough to make those who held power relinquish power to the true winner. Results were very close. As a result, the judges -- this also happens with sports, in boxing, and so forth -- followed the path they believed they should follow at that time, and the government retained power. However, people will have another opportunity, and will have to be more categorical. People know that.

In addition, on this same subject regarding one of Roberto Diaz' charges, people are not on the streets now because of that. People were already indifferent as to who occupies the Presidency. Sincerely, if you conduct a survey right now on the streets, and you ask people who the ministers are -- with the respect the current ministers deserve, and the respect owed to the intelligence of common men and of our people -- the majority, 80 out of 100 citizens, will not reply satisfactorily. They would do this not out of ignorance, but because they are skeptical; they have lost interest; they are tired of seeing the same people heading the government and participating in the administration. So, that is not the reason for the people's protests. That matter has been cast aside.

The next important point: Diaz has said that Torrijos was assassinated in a regrettable accident -- in other words, that it was a provoked accident. He has said that Sergeant Mazachetts had carried a device that was supposed to be a radio, but was really a bomb; that he placed the device under Torrijos' seat and so forth; that the bomb went off; that according to peasants, two explosions were heard: one when the bomb exploded, and another when the plane crashed.

Diaz also said General Wallace Nutting, former commander of the U.S. Southern Command, was involved in the accident; as well as Colonel Purcell, who was a major then; and Lieutenant Colonel Noriega, then in charge of the G-2. I will make an aside here. I remember that approximately 3 or 4 months ago, a newspaper -- I will tell you which newspaper, EXTRA -- published a statement made by Monchi Torrijos [brother of the late Omar Torrijos] in which he mentioned Ruban Dario Paredes and the CIA as masterminds of the assassination by means of a plane accident in which our friend Omar died. This has just come to my mind, and I also bring it up for the public's attention.

I will conclude with this subject, with this part of Roberto Diaz' charges -- and I hope Diaz is also listening to me -- by saying: Torrijos died in an accident, a classical accident. Torrijos' flight maneuver [maniobra] for that day had been used by him, by us, let us say 50-60 times. The Coclesito area, where Omar died, is an area where there is generally bad weather in the dry season. It is generally cloudy during the rainy season. The weather improves around noon, but early, as it is now, and after 1500, it is very cloudy. The sector is also surrounded by hills, such as Marta Hill and others, which are quite high, dividing the Atlantic and Pacific basins. It is a very dangerous hill. Torrijos used to fly over that area. Major Adames was the pilot. He was a very good pilot, a very serious and respectful young man, a good citizen, born in Chiriqui. He was flying the plane through a cannon, so to speak, between two hills, operating the aircraft with great skill.

The aircraft was flying on instruments, without any visibility, as it was equipped for such a situation. However, that day, a 40-meter difference caused Torrijos' plane to crash. The only one who realized that the plane was going to crash...[changes thought] in my opinion, and because I was deeply involved in the investigation results.

We asked the Israeli Government to send a commission to investigate the accident, which did a very good job. An investigating commission also came to Panama from the company that manufactured the plane, De Havilland, which is a Canadian firm. The conclusions are contained in very serious reports. Those files exist; they can be seen. The conclusions from those commissions and the Panamanian conclusion were that the accident occurred unexpectedly. So, the only one who realized that the plane was going to crash was Adames. Perhaps not even the copilot knew. Adames did realize the danger, but it was too late. The visibility was so bad...[changes thought] I apologize to the honorable legislator I will mention now, who perhaps is the best witness of the incident, concerning the visibility and the accident: Legislator Hugo Giraud. Call Hugo Giraud. Robert Diaz, talk to Hugo Giraud, and you will see that everything I have said regarding the accident in which Torrijos died is true. The plane crashed, and we all know the rest. Everybody died, and the plane was completely destroyed.

Regarding the two blasts frequently mentioned, which have caused so much confusion among the public: The two explosions heard by the peasants were first, the impact of an aircraft flying at a speed of more than 160 miles per hour, the impact when the plane crashed against the hill slopes. Second, the fuel inside the plane caused the other explosion. That is why the bodies of several of the occupants were badly burnt, just as Torrijos was. Others were multilated; very few bodies remained intact. Definitely, they died instantly. They were flying -- in other words, to make it clearly -- they never realized what happened, particularly those who were in the rear seats.

I will now discuss the main issue, now that the two mysteries have been cleared up, which I hope they have been. The reason for which people are in the streets, for which Roberto Diaz is in his home with the Spadafora family, and the reason for which the country is in this state of emergency, for which all of us are in a state of anxiety, distress, and powerlessness is: the issue of Hugo Spadafora's murder. This is occurring not because Hugo Spadafora was a personality, a leader, or an outstanding Panamanian. Not all of us cried when he died. No, that is not so. However, it is much more than that. The fact is Panamanians are very humanitarian; they are men and women with strong feelings, who are not used to that kind of crime. Thus, they are terrified because a Panamanian -- in this case Dr Hugo Spadafora, who was also my friend because he was from Colon; he was from Colon [repeats]. [sentence as heard] We met in Chitre, when I was a lieutenant stationed there. There I met his mother and one of his sisters, a teacher named Vamvas. I also was acquainted with his father, Carmelo. Therefore, people are indeed angry about this part or phase of the charges made by Diaz Herrera. That is the point that has to be clarified by the executive branch and by Gen Noriega.

If this is done -- I know these people very well; I have been throughout the country, you know I have done that -- if this is done, everybody would return to work, and calmness will prevail. The current situation would no longer exist; there would be no need to have a state of emergency or to be incommunicado as we are today.

Earlier, I had placed myself in the skin, in the shoes of the people. I will not put myself -- for the same constructive purpose and idea, and to help return peace and calmness to this country... [changes thought] we should not continue destroying what we have accomplished over the past few years, nor should we destroy the nationalist desire to be completely sovereign in the next 14 or 15 years. This is my reason for asking for this -- always with respect, but emphatically -- because we cannot now hide our heads as ostriches do when facing danger or these kinds of problems.

What would I do if I were in Noriega's boots? What would I do if had been wearing the presidential sash and the coat of arms that I saw the president wearing last night on his chest when he addressed the country during national network? I would simply do the following:

I would try to make Roberto Diaz Herrera feel sufficiently confident that he would go to the Attorney General's Office to present formal charges and the evidence he affirmed he has against those who murdered Dr Hugo Spadafora.

Moreover, if Diaz Herrera, Hugo Spadafora's relatives and friends, and if citizens... [changes thought] I had a conversation a few days ago with some young people from that family [not further identified], and they told me: The Attorney General's Office no longer has the people's trust and has no credibility. This is the opinion of most of the people, especially Diaz Herrera and the Spadafora's family. The executive branch should present proof that it wants this situation to cease and that it wants to clear this situation -- not that they are now going to remove the attorney general, whom I know very well, I have known [Carlos] Villalaz for years. Villalaz is a good, serious man, who comes from a humble family. His parents are professionals who have educated four or six sons, all of them college graduates, very skilled, with good intentions, as the people have. Villalaz should also be aware that this is not the time to fool around with the Republic -- he is fooling around with the Republic and its 2 million inhabitants. Villalaz is also facing history. However, we will further explain. It is necessary to prove the present also wants to resolve this problem. Mr President, why do you not expand the Attorney General's Office, because this is not an ordinary case; it is a special case. This portion of the charges continues to be a mystery after the other two existing mysteries have been cleared up.

Therefore, let the people see a gesture of good will through a public consultation. If you so desire, you should call the National Bar Association, Mr President, and ask for a group of three lawyers from among those respected in our community to reinforce the attorney general's staff for these cases.

I am certain that Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, and the Spadafora family, seeing such a gesture, would be willing to appear to give testimony and to present the evidence they claim they have. Then, through an exercise of democracy, the investigation can take place and, in the meantime, we all can go back to our jobs and our routine, peace will return to the country, and the notorious state of emergency can be suspended.

Mr President, this is objective criticism. The president is our president because he is in that position; but he is not God. I am going to express some constructive criticism of the president. You cannot appear on a national network with a certain amount of arrogance. You surprised me. You were not conciliatory. I expected you to call for calm. I expected you to say: We are going to ask those who are making charges to go with confidence to the place where such matters are usually handled: the Attorney General's Office. Instead, we are back to square one. Last night, we went back to square one, and each side was measuring the other. It was like playing chess; the players spend hours just looking at the board without moving any of the pieces. We were back to square one, Mr President. Therefore, this is a respectful suggestion: Strengthen the Attorney General's Office, currently headed by Carlos Villalaz. This does not mean you should remove him; just reinforce his staff. Let Diaz Herrera dare to go there with the lawyer of his choice to present the initial charges. Moreover, I suggest that Diaz Herrera be granted temporary immunity while the preliminary investigations are under way. Then, you will see that the people will begin to calm down and return to their jobs.

[Reporter] In this interesting chat with Gen Ruben Dario Paredes -- who, as we all know, was the Nationalist Party's candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Panama in 1984 -- we will ask: General, what message do you have for the Panamanian people at this harsh and difficult time for Panamanian democracy?

[Paredes] I will end this talk -- which is more than a talk, it is a message addressed to the Panamanian conscience -- with the following words: After the executive takes the step of supporting the attorney general with two [as heard] upright citizens, and after Diaz Herrera has dared to go to the Attorney General's Office to present his charges, with the temporary immunity that I am requesting on his behalf, all that remains is to say to the people -- I am speaking as if I were in Noriega's shoes and as if I were wearing the president's sash and the coast-of-arms that he usually wears on his chest -- that, in 1988, lest us say in July to make it exactly 12 months, Panamanians will be called to democratic, pure, and orderly elections. Then, let Panamanians vote with courage. Let them have their votes respected and not have them vote timidly, as they did the last time. Let the best men, the most capable and vigorous men, be sought to direct national affairs.

This is my message, friends at Radio Nacional. I hope you will broadcast it in its entirely -- all of it -- because the underlying intention is to restore calm to the great Panamanian family and for us to stop presenting he world with the spectacle we are currently presenting. Murphy's Law is hanging over all Panamanians like the sword of Damocles: The hope is that we will continue these disorders so we can be faced with amendments and so forth designed to take the canal from us.

Thus, I conclude by thanking you for calling me here at home. More than that, however, I urge those in power -- Gen Noriega, the president of the Republic, Msgr McGrath -- to seek some form of relief so the people can see good intentions and good-will gestures that will motivate the people to give the current rulers a truce, another respite. For this, there must be gestures made in good faith by those who are running things.

Therefore, Mr Newsman, thank you very much. I am at your service when our people's affairs are at stake.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, retired.

Calls for Early Elections

PA121830 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Telephone interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, former Panama Defense Forces (FDP) commander, by unidentified reporters -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] General Paredes, thank you very much for accepting this call from CARACOL. What is your opinion on what is happening in Panama?

[Paredes] Thank you very much, thank you very much Colombians, particularly Radio CARACOL. We are facing a difficult situation in Panama. A state of emergency has been declared. I just granted an interview locally, which I will summarize for Colombia:

What is really bothering the Panamanian people, who are a very simple and Christian people, is the accusation by Colonel Diaz, retired, that he knows who killed the Panamanian guerrilla-doctor Hugo Spadafora, whose body was found decapitated. Col Diaz, who is at home and accompanied by the family of the late doctor, should go -- in my judgement, so I recommended to the executive branch of Panama and to General Noriega, chief of the FDP -- to the Attorney General's Office to formalize his accusations with the evidence he claims he has. For this, and in view of Diaz' statement that he has no faith in the Attorney General's Office or in the official heading it, I urge the president to reinforce the Attorney General's Office on this occasion with two honest lawyers, whose integrity is indisputable, chosen from among three members of the Panamanian Lawyers Association. Col Diaz should then have the right to counsel and -- why not say so, as it was said here in Panama -- enjoy temporary immunity for this extraordinary case. He should dare go to that office, make his accusations, and submit the evidence he says he has. After that, I am certain the Panamanian people will desist from violence, or today's position of staying at home, or the absenteeism occurring in many of the country's productive activities.

Meanwhile, I also sent a message to Gen Noriega and the president of the Republic in the course of that interview, saying that it appears to be very necessary that the elections for president and other subordinate positions be held as soon as possible in a true exercise of democracy in which the will of the Panamanian people must be respected.

As part of that suggestion, which has only a conciliatory spirit [words indistinct] spirit to recover peace and tranquillity, I added that these can be held in July 1988; that is, within 12 months. Naturally, this would also imply a total reorganization of the electoral tribunal, because this [words indistinct] was very discredited during that past election. It was accused of being fraudulent.

[Reporter] What did you say...[changes thought] what position will the president or Gen Noriega adopt regarding the proposal to call elections?

[Paredes] I do not know. I made this recommendation at the national level only 1 hour ago. They will either accept it or reject it. However, they have an extremely sensitive responsibility to the history of the Republic. I believe they should be sensible and serene and set an example for the people with deeds showing that they really want to bring about national peace, tranquillity, balance; and not maintain an obstinate, arrogant position.

[Reporter] What will happen if what Col Diaz reported happens? He said Gen Noriega caused the fraud during the last elections, when Arnulfo Arias won but it ended up as if Ardito Barletta had won?

[Paredes] You are asking what will happen if a new fraud takes place?

[Reporter] I [words indistinct] and second, if there is the risk that it will happen again.

[Paredes] The Colombians and Panamanians were one and the same at one time, a single territory. Therefore, we have practically the same focus on the political situation that exists in the small countries fighting to develop. I also explained in that interview directed to the people, principally to them, that during the 1984 elections, they allowed the maneuver by which the current government retained power. The people were not overwhelming. The people did not vote with enough strength to force those holding power to relinquish it. The people unconsciously left enough space for the government to maneuver in its favor, and it retained power. It was a close finish, a very narrow decision, like in boxing, as I explained. Those with decisionmaking power retained power. However, I am sure that if this time, the next time, the people go to the polls courageously in a civic manner and express their innermost desire for change -- because they truly want change, and deserve it -- Noriega, President Delvalle, or whoever, will respect that desire. That is my opinion.

[Reporter] General, to what extent will that desire be respected? In Panama, a president was elected with the approval of the government -- as was the case with Mr Ardito Barletta -- and several months later, the FDP did not like their own candidate, ousted him, and put someone else there.

[Paredes] That is because full democracy has not been attained. The people's will has not been fully respected. This is typical in countries where there has been a coup, such as in our case. A coup took place in 1968. The situation is difficult regarding how to relinquish power or return it to civilians without it biting you like a viper. You know, if you are holding a snake by the head and you let it go carelessly, it will turn around and can kill you. Thus, this is the problem: how to give up power, without seeing it turn against the same hand that set it free. This is a figure of speech I have used in the past, and I hope it has explained the situation well.

During the past 19 years, the leaders of the country should have understood the truth of this situation: that the people are tired of seeing the same people in power. [sentence as heard] They should relinquish power before it is taken away from them in a violent and disorderly way which would be the worst case. I am sure that the people will see the last...[changes thought] the time lag that I request as well as sufficient calm and intelligence on the part of the leaders.

I do not think recent events can occur again, mainly because those who...[changes thought] Nicolas Ardito Barletta [former president] was there, but not with a quote legitimate unquote triumph. It was not a legitimate triumph -- it is true, it is true [repeats himself] -- and I am speaking sincerely.

[Reporter] But General, do you think that the way to resolve the Panamanian crisis, besides your proposal for a convocation for elections, is the withdrawal of General Noriega?

[Paredes] Look, that is a very serious question, so I am also going to give a very serious answer. The solution would be for the next democratically elected president to have the right to appoint a new commander in chief of the Armed Forces. From then on -- and this is unusual for Panama, I mean for a new president to begin his term by appointing his own Armed Forces commander in chief -- each outgoing president should leave office along with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces he appointed, without violating the Armed Forces internal affairs.

My opinion is that when this type of thing occurs in Panama, we will have greater stability, hopefully similar to that which your country currently enjoys. That is my proposal for now.

[Reporter] General, do you think that Gen Noriega -- the man who overthrew you, the strongman in Panama, in command of the Armed Forces -- would be willing to reach that agreement and negotiate his own head?

[Paredes] Look, I want to clarify something. No one overthrew me. I want Colombians to know that I completed my office as commander of the Armed Forces. I retired in a very unusual way rarely seen within the Armed Forces. Perhaps there is a certain confusion. When I was a civilian, I exerted my political right to become a presidential candidate to continue the democratization process that I left unfinished when I succeeded in introducing reforms to the Constitution, during that time of turmoil and confusion among the political classes -- I imagine that something similar happened in Colombia -- I was destabilized. I realized then that it was not a clean game and that they [not further identified] were doing their things [as heard] which did not agree with my code of morality and view of certain things. Therefore I stepped aside, because I realized that they [not further identified] were playing a dirty trick on me.

In other words, I was not enough a politician at that point. I knew there are low blows in politics, but I had no idea they were so low, you know where I mean, right? So that is what happened.

Regarding your last question, I am sure that within an ordered, civic, constitutional program, Gen Noriega will indeed accept, [word indistinct] that through an overwhelming majority, and elections that [word indistinct] he is logically capable of and should be capable of accepting withdrawal from his position with the inauguration of a new president.

[Reporter] General, concerning what happened to you, we think Gen Noriega must have encouraged you to retire from the air force command [as heard] to assume the presidential candidacy, assuring you that you would be elected president to keep what was yours.

[Paredes] No, [words indistinct] no one [word indistinct] me. Perhaps, it was my desire to do more for my people by being president. In other words -- this idea came from Torrijos -- we felt we had to return to our barracks and return civil power to civilians, to the most capable civilians, because the basic purpose for which Torrijos assumed power as head of the government had been achieved: the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Thus, this was the moment to return to our barracks.

By accident, by acident [repeats himself] my figure served for the transition, the transition the change demanded. That change had to take place without violence, revenge, or traumas. Therefore, fate placed me in that situation. I was not the best man. It is not that I was the nicest guy, or the toughest [berraco] as you say in Columbia, but that at that momemt political and other ambitions took over and destroyed the true noble plan, so I withdrew from politics. [sentence as heard] That is what I can say to you.

[Reporter] Perfect, General. If we understood you well, you are now proposing to return to the Torrijist concept: Panamanian militarymen return to their barracks and civilians assume power, as it should be. You also proposed that Gen Noriega accept the plan, and that instead of being ousted government now -- which would be very difficult -- he should accept a plan calling for elections and for the president of the Republic -- as it occurs in all nations of the world -- to choose and appoint the militaryman he considers te best to become the chief of the security forces.

[Paredes] Yes, but without violating the Armed Forces hierarchical structure, because this has been the problem with Arnulfo Arias. When he attains power, he wants to appoint whoever he wants as chief of the Armed Forces and that is not possible either. I agree with the summary you just made of what I said.

[Reporter] General, there are several things that Colonel [name indistinct] that remain in the mind of the Colombian people. First, who killed Hugo Spadafora?

[Paredes] Are you asking me?

[Reporter] Yes sir, I am asking you.

[Paredes] Retired Colonel Diaz, whom I have asked to go ahead and whom I dare to go to the Attorney General's Office, is the person who says he has the proof on and names of those who killed Hugo Spadafora. He has got to go the district attorney with his lawyer and give this information. I have now asked the president to grant him temporary immunity so he can go without fear and supply the proof on and names of those who killed Hugo Spadafora. This is what has the country paralyzed.

[Reporter] General, do you believe Gen Noriega had something to do with the plot to kill Spadafora?

[Paredes] Now see, I am going to tell you my sincerest belief. I do not believe Noriega or any other member of the General Staff would be so obstinate [obsecado] and lacking in intelligence, not to say something else, to have ordered this brutal murder. I tell you sincerely, on the memory of my forefathers, that I do not believe this. It could have happened within the institution's ranks -- someone who could have gone a little too far. There could have been neglect, whatever. That is possible. However, to have ordered a murder, like a mission to be accomplished -- to have been an order from the country's top military -- I truly believe they would not be that lacking in intelligence. I do not believe this.

[Reporter] General, do you believe that in the case of Gen Torrijos' death, someone could have also gone a litttle too far?

[Paredes] Absolutely untrue. This is fresh in my mind, as this is one of the accusations that has been going around for days: The idea is that there was a plot in that accident involving some people here. This is absurd. Here is where the report loses a lot of credibility and confuses other issues. Diaz Herrera makes about three different accusations. He mentions a former Southern Command chief, General Nutting, retired. He mentions Colonel Purcell of the Chiefs of Staff, who was a major at the time, and he also mentions a local politician, whose surname is Arias Calderon. All these people are far removed from one another. They have no relationship with each other. All this disappears with the information I am going to give you now. There was no such attack. There was also not a forced accident in the deaths of Torrijos and all those who were onboard with him. I was in the Armed Forces at the time, although I was not the commander; I was second in command. At the time, we immediately sent for two important missions to investigate the accident. One was from Israel and the other from Canada. Why Canada? Because the airplane was manufactured by De Havilland, it was a Twin Otter. The investigations were separate; they did not coincide. When we opened up the reports afterwards, once the investigators had left, the reports' technical findings agreed as did the conclusion, which read: The accident is a classic case of human error caused by bad weather. There is no doubt that this was an unexpected and regrettable accident. It was sudden; Torrijos himself never knew what happened. The only one who might have possibly seen something right at the end was the pilot; but too late. Torrijos, and I myself, had made that maneuver several times, because that place is permanently overcast. Only on rare occasions is there visibility. Nearly always one lands by instruments only. It is at the continental divided, between the Atlantic and the Pacific. The plane missed going over the top of Cerro Marta by only 40 meters. The plane was covered by earth at the top of Cerro Marta in that fatal accident. I reiterate that there was no attack against Torrijos. Torrijos was killed in a legitimate accident.

[Reporter] Yes, general. While covering here in CARACOL the evolution of the political crisis in Panama -- all the people in Panama agree on this, as we have asked many if Noriega will fall -- the people agree with this reply: Noriega will fall whenever he loses the Defense Forces' support, and up to now he has maintained that support. Gen Paredes, do you think the Defense Forces would be willing to back your idea -- your plan, your proposal -- that elections be called for within 1 year and that [words indistinct] the man who is to head the Defense Forces is appointed by the elected president, respecting, as you say, the military echelon?

[Paredes] That is correct. I believe that if the situation remains as it is now, the president and Noriega will have to take one path or the other so the outcome is not disorderly, not to say violent. The intelligent thing to do would be to take a political path. Maneuver politically. I hope my idea works out for them. I am sure Noriega will see himself either being forced to or having to voluntarily respect what is considered here as best for the republic. With the new president, he [Gen Noriega] should understand that he should retire and allow room for the General Staff to give a list to the president from which to choose, respecting the echelon and the Armed Forces statutes. I am sure he understands this and will not take unyielding positions that can be very, very dangerous.

[Reporter] Does Gen Noriega listen to you, Gen Paredes?

[Paredes] Yes, of course. Do you mean what I say on the radio or face-to-face?

[Reporter, laughing] Does he listen to your advice?

[Paredes] We will have to wait. We will have to wait to allow him to work on the idea.

[Reporter] Gen Noriega already knows of the idea? Has this been talked about already?

[Paredes] No, no. This has been a freely expressed idea which I have just suggested.

[Reporter] Do you often speak with Gen Noriega?

[Paredes] No. I do not speak frequently to any of... [changes thought] with the exception of casual encounters, etc. I don't have regular meetings where I go there or they come here.

[Reporter] Gen Paredes, if Gen Noriega and President Delvalle were to accept your plan to schedule elections in a few months, would you -- as someone who retired from the post of commander of Panama's military forces to be a presidential candidate and then was not a candidate because of the low blow you said was dealt you -- become a presidential candidate again?

[Paredes] I am not of that mind at this time. That is exactly why I dare to speak as clearly as I am now speaking. I will not say categorically that I want nothing to do with that, because I have also learned that in politics, one should not say never. It would depend to a great extent on the circumstances and what the people want. However, as for me to actively seek that, you and all Colombians can be certain I am not going to actively seek that. [repeats himself] I am not going to actively seek that.

[Reporter] General, you have been very enlightening. Colombians have listened to you with attention and interests, and I sincerely believe they have been crossing their fingers in hope that you will be heeded, because your solutions... [changes thought] at least yours is the first voice we have heard since the crisis began that has proposed a solution. In any case, your solution is for Noriega to step down.

[Paredes] Basically, yes. He should retire in a democratic manner. Do I make myself clear?

[Reporter] Perfectly clear, general.

[Paredes] In a democratic manner, in a nonviolent transition, without persecution, in peace [repeats himself], in peace. Let the people come down from the present level of irritation, [repeats himself] the present level of irritation, which is very dangerous.

[Reporter] General, thank you very much for agreeing to this very enlightening dialogue with CARACOL. We hope to talk with you again when the government has responded in some way to the proposal you have just made.

[Paredes] It was a great pleasure, and I am very grateful to you for having called my home, which is also your home.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, General. You have been very kind to us.

[Paredes] So long, Colombia.

DEFENSE FORCES CAPTAIN IN 'STABLE' CONDITION

PA151411 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1357 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Defense Forces Captain Heliodoro Villamil was seriously wounded last night when he was shot twice.

The officer underwent surgery in Santo Tomas Hospital. ACAN-EFE was told at the hospital that his condition is "stable" [estacionario].

The officer was attacked last night while on a patrol round on Mexico Avenue.

This is the first premeditated bloodshed of the Panamanian crisis, which broke out 1 week ago.

RADIO STATION REPORTS 'NORMAL' DAY IN PANAMA CITY

PA130025 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0001 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] In answer to many calls received in Radio Nacional's main news room from various places in the country inquiring about the situation in Panama City, we report that it is completely normal.

Throughout the work day no important incidents have been reported by the police. The bus system has run smoothly, covering the various routes to and from the city's downtown area. Stores served the public without interference of any kind and state institutions carried the administration's work normally and expeditiously.

Hotels and other tourist centers have continued serving visitors in the usual manner. Public services, including the cleaning of the capital's main streets, have operated at full capacity and efficiency.

This enables us to confirm to the other regions in the country that today has been completely normal in Panama City.

Denies Rumors of Curfew

PA122354 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2334 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] To avoid the confusion that some people seek to sow in the community, it is hereby advised that all official reports will be aired through Radio Nacional only. Therefore, all reports made public through other media must be confirmed by Radio Nacional. We refer to the rumors of a curfew. No curfew has been decreed. No curfew has been decreed.

DEFENSE SECRETARY RESIGNS, REPLACEMENT NAMED

PY152146 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2132 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (TELAM) -- It was officially reported this afternoon at Government House that President Raul Alfonsin has appointed Raul Alconada Sempe, who is currently Foreign Ministry under secretary for Latin American affairs, as the new defense secretary. He replaces Alfredo Mosso.

During a ceremony to be held tomorrow at 1800 in the White Room of Government House, President Alfonsin will swear in the newly appointed defense secretary and presidential adviser Jose Maria Llados, who has been appointed secretary of defense production.

Alfonsin held a meeting this afternoon at Government House with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena. It was during this meeting that they decided to accept Mosso's resignation and to appoint Alconada Sempe as his replacement.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FALKLAND ISLANDS DEBATE

Official Views Issue

PY151742 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0711 GMT 14 Jun 87

[By Alberto Arebalos]

[Excerpts] Puerto Iguazu, 14 Jun (EFE) -- Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Sabato today said that the Argentine Government rules out any type of military action to resolve the sovereignty issue with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands. Sabato told EFE on the 5th anniversary of the surrendering of the Argentine troops in the Malvinas Islands that "we want to recover the islands" but "we must seek rational and reasonable solutions."

Sabato, who attended a meeting of the Latin American Political Youth, said that "Margaret Thatcher's victory was expected and although a Labor Party victory would have facilitated negotiations, we are not discarding the possibility that some things may change."

Sabato recalled that this year the British electoral campaign did not revolve around the Malvinas issue like in 1983, therefore the policies of the Conservative government are under less pressure. However, Sabato said that "Mrs Thatcher will probably continue with her usual hard policy over the Malvinas." Sabato emphasized that the Malvinas Islands conflict cannot be based on emotions and advocated a serious discussion of all the issues related to the conflict, including the sovereignty issue.

Asked about how to unlock the current situation, Sabato admitted that "we must be patient because we lost the war and although victory does not give rights we must now review a situation which has deteriorated very badly since the 1982 war." [passage omitted]

Sabato pointed out that "it is not realistic to discuss diplomatic, commercial, or cultural issues without resolving the sovereignty issue because if we did so the following day we would find ourselves with the problem of who is patrolling the waters around the islands."

Sabato labeled the opinions of some opposition politicians who advocate the need to have a military disuasive force near the islands "to support Argentine diplomatic actions" as not very serious. He said: "We cannot do that because it involves confronting not only Great Britain, but also NATO. Furthermore, having a disuasive force means having the possibility of using it and to advocate this course is definitely not very serious." Sabato added that a solution to the Malvinas Islands problem will be found "when Argentina becomes internationally recognized for its seriousness."

He also emphasized that the creation of a Latin American common market would be a decisive factor for solving the conflict because "it would be useless for anybody to keep a focus of tension in a region where there is a potential market of 300 million people."

Sabato said: "The Argentine position is serious and reasonable, it wants to discuss all issues, including sovereignty. Its position is strong because it is serious." However, he admitted that in the future it will be difficult for Argentina to increase support for its position at the United Nations.

Governments Discuss 'Impasse'

PY121825 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1655 GMT 12 Jun 87

[By NA special correspondent]

[Text] Bern, 12 Jun (NA) -- It was learned here today that the Argentine and Swiss Governments discussed the conflict over the Malvinas Islands on two occasions during the Argentine president's trip, but that no real possibilities to reactivate or resume bilateral negotiations emerged from either discussion.

Switzerland represents British interests in Argentina, and this is the basic reason why representatives of the two governments held talks to assess the current situation, which was publicly recognized by Alfonsin as an "impasse" at a news conference this afternoon.

The first of these talks was held this morning, while the second was held this afternoon. It is believed that on both occasions, the two parties referred to the effects that Margaret Thatcher's recent victory in the British elections might have.

According to an obvious but realistic analysis made here by diplomatic circles, two possibilities could arise from the Conservative victory: The current status quo will be maintained or the government will soften its position precisely because it won the elections.

As a result of this analysis -- the positions of the different diplomatic sources consulted were not in agreement -- Argentina "will keep waiting for an opportunity to start moving forward."

Although none of the sources consulted wanted to venture an opinion on whether there is optimism or pessimism regarding the beginning of talks with the British Government on the Malvinas Islands, the desire for dialogue so often expressed by the Argentines seems to indicate that negotiations are being conducted, negotiations that could lead to some positive results to break the current "impasse" situation.